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# First Annual Report

The Ontario  
Advisory Council  
on the  
Physically  
Handicapped



September 1976







**First Annual Report of the  
Ontario Advisory Council  
on the Physically Handicapped  
for the twelve month period  
ending March 31, 1976**

Further copies of this Report may be obtained at:  
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Honourable Margaret Birch,  
Provincial Secretary for Social Development.



Edward A. Dunlop,  
Chairman.





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**I ORGANIZATION AND AIMS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped was established by Order-in-Council No. 355/75 (see Appendix 1). Its first monthly meeting was held on March 16, 1975 followed by twelve subsequent meetings.

The Council consists of a Chairman and nineteen members who are drawn from all regions of the Province (see Appendix 2). Over half of the members are physically handicapped and all have had experience with agencies or organizations serving the needs of the severely handicapped.

The mandate of the Council is to advise the Ontario Government, through the Provincial Secretary for Social Development, on matters pertaining to the well-being of physically handicapped persons. Among its aims are:

- i) To review present government policies and programs affecting the physically handicapped (eg. education, employment, rehabilitation, income maintenance, health services, housing, transportation and recreation).
- ii) To make recommendations to the Ontario Government with the aim of improving policies and programs affecting the physically handicapped.
- iii) To promote the opportunities of the physically handicapped to create and participate in self-help programs so that each handicapped person may have maximum opportunities for determining his own style of life.

**II ACTIVITIES OF THE FIRST YEAR**

During the first year of the Council's operation, one of its most important tasks was to become familiar with present government programs and provisions on behalf of the handicapped. In this way, Council has increased its detailed knowledge of services presently available and its ability to identify gaps and deficiencies. In these reviews of policies and programs Council was generously assisted by senior officers from a number of Ministries.

As Council members became better aware of what is available for the handicapped, they also identified problem areas which appear to require change. A canvass of the opinions of members suggested three areas of prime importance. These were:

- 1) Transportation
- 2) Accommodation
- 3) Income maintenance.

Ad hoc subcommittees were struck to study and to make recommendations in each of these areas. The Subcommittee on Transportation was chaired by Mr. Andrew C. Clarke, that on Accommodation by Mr. Jack Longman, and that on Income Maintenance by Dr. J. Stobo Prichard.

The report of the Subcommittee on Transportation was forwarded to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development in July 1975 (See Appendix 3). The report of the Subcommittee on Accommodation was not completed by March 31, 1976, but a final draft report on Accommodation is found as Appendix 4 of this report. The work of the Subcommittee on Income Maintenance is still in progress.

**III THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED – PROBLEMS OF DEFINITION AND PHILOSOPHY**

Some people prefer the term "physically handicapped" while others prefer the term "physically disabled". While "physically handicapped" probably has the clearest meaning for the general public, the problem with this term is that it perpetuates the notion that persons with physical defects are inevitably and permanently restricted in their vocational and social performance. By no means is this necessarily the case. The term "physically disabled" on the other hand, recognizes the existence of a disability free of the connotation that this disability inevitably constitutes a vocational or social handicap. After consideration Council concluded that the question was mainly one of semantics. It was decided, therefore, to retain the term "physically handicapped" because of its widespread use as found in the name of a number of related organizations and in the Order-in-Council No. 355/75.

Some physical handicaps are quite apparent to the observer. These include neuro-muscular and skeletal disorders which cause difficulty in locomotion and which may require the use of artificial limbs, crutches, braces and wheelchairs. Blindness and speech and hearing defects also fall in the category of "visible" handicaps. Less apparent are handicaps caused by such disorders as severe pulmonary and cardiovascular disease and epilepsy.

The Council has found it difficult to arrive at a satisfactory definition of the term "physical handicap". It might be defined as "a condition causing a permanent or prolonged loss or lessening of the ability to will or do a normal physical act".

As well, it is difficult to measure the severity of disability. This difficulty can be overcome in part, however, by arbitrary schedules determining the



percentage of disability to be attributed to particular conditions. Such schedules are used in the administration of The Pension Act, The Canada Pension Act and The Ontario Workmen's Compensation Act. This approach is similar to that used by the courts in assessing damages and is suitable with respect to payments such as war disability pensions and Workmen's Compensation which have an insurance-like purpose. It is not realistic, however, in determining a disabled person's eligibility for income maintenance or similar services. The definition attached to the GAINS-D program is as follows:

"disabled person" means a person who has a major physical or mental impairment that is likely to continue for a prolonged period of time and who, as a result thereof is severely limited in activities pertaining to normal living as verified by objective medical findings accepted by the Medical Advisory Board".

In this definition it is evident that the criterion finally resorted to is that of administrative discretion.

Partly owing to problems of definition and measurement of the extent of disability, there are no accurate statistics available as to the number of severely physically handicapped persons in Ontario. Some data is available from epidemiological studies and registrations carried out by organizations such as the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and The Canadian Paraplegic Association. The Canadian Sickness Survey 1951, also yields some information. Such data is, however, unsatisfactory for program planning and there is little reason to believe that it will be significantly improved in the foreseeable future. The data does suggest, however, that the problem of physical disability is sufficiently widespread to justify massive efforts to overcome its vocational and social consequences.

It is clear that the important thing to a physically handicapped person is the impact of the handicap on his vocational and social performance and this will vary from person to person. For example while the loss of a finger would be of little significance to most members of the work force, to a concert violinist such a loss might be economically and emotionally calamitous. As well, the impact of a handicap on the life of an individual depends not only on its severity but also upon the natural and acquired resources of mind, body and spirit which he can muster.

The most important point is this, however: the physically handicapped cannot be characterized primarily on the basis of their handicaps. They are persons firstly, and only secondarily are they persons with physical disabilities. Their needs and resources vary widely as do the needs and resources of all individuals. They share in the hopes, fears, aspirations and achievements of their able-bodied peers.

## What do the Handicapped Want of Society?

The physically handicapped seek the greatest possible independence, the opportunity to live with dignity and self respect and the chance to contribute as much as possible to their community. If the handicapped are to achieve these goals, greater access to education, employment, suitable accommodation and transportation should be offered. In fact, persons with physical handicaps want the same opportunities as are available to all people in this society.

## What does Society Want for the Physically Handicapped?

Many members of society do not realize how many people are affected by physical handicaps nor are they aware of the implications of these handicaps for those so affected. Most people have never had close contact with someone having a serious physical handicap, so the existence of handicapped persons and the problems which they encounter have little bearing on their day-to-day existence. There are also those in this society who are deeply involved in endeavours to alleviate the problems of the handicapped. It seems clear however, that there exists a considerable reservoir of goodwill towards the disabled and that thoughtful members of society want for the disabled what they want for themselves. It may be assumed equally, that the Government of Ontario was seeking to express the wishes of the people when it established the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped to make recommendations to improve policies and programs affecting this group.

Edward A. Dunlop

# **Activities of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped, March 1975 - March 1976**

The Council advises the Provincial Secretary for Social Development, the Honourable Margaret Birch, on policies and programs affecting the physically handicapped. To do this effectively the Council must establish and maintain close contact with the individual ministries designing such programs. In the past year the Council has studied and made recommendations in numerous subject areas. Where issues were extremely complex and were defined by Council as having particularly high priority ad hoc subcommittees were formed to study these. Ad hoc subcommittees were formed to study and make recommendations in the following areas:

- 1) Transportation
- 2) Accommodation and Support Services
- 3) Income Maintenance
- 4) The Special Needs of Handicapped Children.

As well, the Council studied and made recommendations in a number of other areas. The following section summarizes the work and recommendations of the four subcommittees and then goes on to describe studies and recommendations by Council in other areas.

## **I TRANSPORTATION**

The extent to which a physically handicapped person may enjoy an independent and self-sufficient life style is highly dependent upon the degree to which he has the opportunity to move within his environment at will. To avail himself of opportunities for career development, education, recreation and sociability, the physically handicapped person must be able to reach the places where these opportunities exist. Therefore the Council has defined the provision of adequate and accessible transportation systems as one of the paramount needs of the physically handicapped. The Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Transportation was set up for the purpose of formulating short term and long term policies on the transportation needs of the physically handicapped and of making specific recommendations concerning the implementation of these policies.

### **Methodology of the Study**

Literature concerning transportation for the physically handicapped was surveyed. Among the source material studied was a report written by Peat Marwick and Partners and presented to the Ministry of Transportation and Communications in January 1975. As well, the experience of Council members

was a valuable source of information as many have first hand knowledge of the transportation difficulties faced by a physically handicapped person. Transportation systems for physically handicapped persons in other jurisdictions were surveyed. Finally, six experimental programs providing transportation to physically handicapped persons in London, Oshawa, Ottawa-Carleton, Metropolitan Toronto, Thunder Bay and Edmonton were reviewed. These programs were studied in depth with the intent of determining whether their application could be broadened and in what manner this could most appropriately be accomplished.

### **Recommendations Submitted — Transportation.**

In this report it is suggested that there are three possible ways to provide transportation services to the physically handicapped. First, a parallel public transportation service can be created for those unable to use the public transit systems which presently exist. Secondly, present public transit services, through minor modifications, can be made more accessible and convenient to physically handicapped users. Thirdly, for those unable to use any type of public transit or for those who live in areas where it would be uneconomical to provide such services, government assistance can be provided in the private purchase of personal transportation. Each of these possible means was discussed in the report, accompanied by specific recommendations concerning the most appropriate ways of implementing each one. Some of the major recommendations, in summarized form, appear below:

#### **A) The Proposed Parallel Public Transit System**

i) A person's eligibility to receive the services of a parallel public transit system should be based on a certified registration attesting that the individual is unable to use public transportation. A sworn statement by the individual should suffice, with the onus on the municipality or Province to prove eligibility in cases of doubt. The alternative of demanding medical certification from all users should be resorted to only if significant abuse of the honour system occurs.

ii) Since the operating deficit of the proposed parallel public transit system will be higher than for a regular system, the provincial operating subsidy should be greater than the usual 50%. It is felt that this increased subsidy will help to encourage municipal participation and that it may be justified by the likelihood that off-setting savings to other programs (education, employment, health-related transportation) will largely accrue to the



Province. However, a 100% provincial subsidy is not recommended as it reduces the incentive to efficiency which exists when the municipality shares in operating costs. A 75% operating subsidy is therefore recommended.

iii) Municipalities should be able to appeal for larger subsidies on a special case basis if, for instance, their size, climate, or other unusual local factors make their operating costs very high. Such a mechanism should make the provision of parallel public transit systems fairly universal from municipality to municipality.

iv) Arbitrary cost ceilings should not be imposed as these could cause poor service at the local level and would produce an unrealistic picture of program costs. This would affect provincial planning of further programs.

v) The provincial responsibility for this program is properly located with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, since the provision of such service is a transportation issue rather than a social service issue.

#### **B) Modifications to Existing Public Transit Systems**

i) This program should serve those with "moderate transportation disabilities" such as blind persons and many of the elderly. Such a program should shift ridership from the more expensive parallel public transit system.

ii) The provincial responsibility for this program is properly located with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, since the provision of such service is a transportation issue rather than a social service issue.

#### **C) Private Purchase of Personal Transportation**

i) Study is needed concerning the number of disabled requiring the provisions of such a program and the according cost. Further recommendations will follow when more information is available.

ii) It is the opinion of the Council that this is a social service issue rather than a transportation issue and thus the provincial responsibility for such a program should rest with the Ministry of Community and Social Services rather than with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

Mrs. Birch responded to the report by stating that the Cabinet Committee on Social Development is at present reconsidering an urban transportation policy for the disabled in Ontario.

## **II ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

It is the view of Council that a physically handicapped person should have a choice of accommo-

dation styles similar to the choice available to the non-handicapped individual and that services should be provided to the handicapped person to allow him to live as independently as possible in the setting of his choice. The problems presently existing in the provision of accommodation and support services were defined as follows:

- i) There is a lack of co-ordination in the planning and delivery of accommodation and support services to the physically handicapped.
- ii) There is a lack of consistency across the Province in the application of government programs for the physically handicapped.
- iii) There is a lack of suitable accessible accommodation available to the physically handicapped.
- iv) There are too few alternatives for the physically handicapped between total independent living in the community and total care in an institution.
- v) There is a shortage of adequate personnel to provide needed support services in the community, and a lack of clearly defined standards of training.
- vi) Present forms of institutional care are unsuitable in many ways to meet the needs of the physically handicapped.

### **Methodology of the Study**

Legislation pertaining to the provision of accommodation and support services was reviewed in detail in order to identify the circumstances under which these services are presently delivered. As well, program managers responsible for the planning and delivery of these services were interviewed. Literature concerning different accommodation styles was reviewed so that recommendations made in this study could be backed by the knowledge of actual experience.

### **Accommodation and Support Services — Recommendations Submitted**

A number of broad policy recommendations were made in the report of this subcommittee, aimed at improving the present system. In summarized form they are as follows:

- i) Government programs for the physically handicapped must be co-ordinated to ensure a system which is rational, accessible and equitable.
- ii) A wider range of alternatives in accommodation styles must be made available to the physically handicapped person.
- iii) Support services should be provided to the physically handicapped person so that he may remain in the accommodation of his choice. Such services increase the individual's poten-



tial for self sufficiency, and are usually provided at less cost than institutional care.

- iv) Through support services, a total continuum of care should be available to the physically handicapped on the basis of physical need.
- v) Adequate numbers of staff should be specifically trained to provide the support services needed by the physically handicapped.
- vi) Standards of training and service must be further defined to meet the needs of the physically handicapped and training courses must reflect these standards.
- vii) Physically handicapped persons should receive accommodation and support services specifically designed for their needs. They should not be placed in institutional facilities which are designed, in terms of administrative structure and program content, to serve other target groups.

As well, twenty five specific recommendations relating to the implementation of the above policy recommendations appear in the report.

The paper will be presented to The Honourable Margaret Birch, Provincial Secretary for Social Development.

### III INCOME MAINTENANCE

This study will make recommendations concerning the systems by which various income support payments are provided to the physically handicapped. Some of the major concerns of the Council in this area are as follows:

- i) There still exist numerous barriers which hinder the handicapped from participating in the labour force, so the provision of income support is of prime importance to this group.
- ii) For a physically handicapped person in receipt of the Guaranteed Annual Income Supplement (GAINS-D) incentives to work are reduced by the structure of that program. Any income over \$60.00 per month earned by a single person is taxed back at the rate of 75%. Thus the person who earns \$60.00 monthly keeps this earned income in its entirety as well as the GAINS-D payment of \$250.00 per month for a total monthly income of \$310.00. If he increases his earnings from \$60.00 to \$100.00 however, his total monthly income will only increase to \$320.00 as the \$40.00 increase is taxed back at the rate of 75%. If he increases his monthly earnings to \$200.00, his total monthly income will only increase to \$345.00.
- iii) Present programs providing income support to the physically handicapped are numerous,

complex, often confusing, and not as responsive as they might be to the needs of this group.

### Methodology of the Study

This study is in the planning stages at the present time. General areas of concern have been identified and these general areas have been synthesized into more specific questions. These questions will be answered by undertaking a complete survey of programs providing income support to the handicapped. An inventory of policies, programs and legislation in this area will be compiled and those responsible for administering programs will be interviewed. From an analysis of this information problem areas will be identified, and, following this, recommendations will be made for improvements in programs. These recommendations will have the aim of increasing the equity, the accessibility and the effectiveness of present Government provisions. Recommendations will also be made with the aim of reducing the disincentives to work which are now a part of the system.

Research will be conducted throughout the summer months and it is expected that the report will be in form for submission by the end of November 1976.

### IV THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Physically handicapped children face substantially the same range of problems as do physically handicapped adults. For example, they encounter a confusing multiplicity of services which may or may not satisfactorily fulfill the needs of the user. Also, they encounter physical obstacles which prevent certain buildings and facilities from being easily assessable to them.

However, the physically handicapped child faces a number of problems specific to his age which are not faced by the handicapped adult. For example, at an age where his peers are receiving the education which will fit them for later participation in the workforce, the handicapped child may find his educational advancement impeded by the lack of resources suited to his needs. As well, certain social service programs are not open to persons under the age of 18. Any problems encountered by the physically handicapped child are compounded by the fact that, because of their age, children are less able than adults to demand and lobby for the services and programs which they need. They are thus more dependent on others to act as spokesmen for their needs than are adults.

In general terms, the concerns of Council are these:

- i) Physically handicapped children should be integrated with their non-handicapped peers in as many areas of daily living as possible.

Examples of such activities are the acquisition of an education and the enjoyment of recreational and social activities.

- ii) Except where appropriate alternative public education services are provided, (eg. the Ontario Schools for the Deaf and Blind) the services of the public school system should be made available, without exception, to the physically handicapped child.
- iii) Special services, when necessary, should be provided to children with physical handicaps so that their opportunities to reach a maximum level of independence at adulthood may be equalized with those of their non-handicapped peers.

### Methodology

An ad hoc subcommittee has been formed to investigate and report on these issues. It is felt by Council that the educational needs of children are a particularly high priority so information is presently being sought in two main areas:

- i) the problems which the handicapped child encounters in entering and attending the present school system
- ii) the steps which should be taken to resolve these problems.

To this end, interviews have been conducted with a number of individuals involved in the provision of various services to physically handicapped children. As well, it is planned to contact various parents groups and professional associations to ascertain what problems these groups perceive and what solutions they envisage.

When the information from these sources has been gathered and analyzed, Council will present recommendations for changes where these are considered necessary.

## V THE "CARE PACKAGE" – ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES)

The "Care Package" is a proposal of the Ministry of Community and Social Services which outlines a system by which housing and support services may be delivered to physically handicapped persons. Briefly, the provisions of the proposal are as follows:

- A Non-Profit Corporation obtains C.M.H.C. loans to purchase property.
- The Ministry of Housing provides further capital contribution.
- The Ministry of Housing covers all housing costs as a rent supplement on a rent-geared-to-income basis. Housing costs include utilities, taxes, property repair and maintenance and insurance.

- The local municipality contributes 7½% of the rent supplement subsidy, a condition of Ministry of Housing subsidy.
- Residents pay for their housing costs on the rent-geared-to-income basis under the Ministry of Housing.
- The Ministry of Community and Social Services pays for the care costs which are the staffing costs necessary to enable the handicapped adults to function in the residence.
- In group living, the resident pays to the Corporation for shared costs — food and household supplies, linen toilet supplies, furniture replacement.
- The resident pays all his other costs himself such as clothing, phone, transportation, dental, recreation, entertainment, personal needs related to grooming and hygiene.
- In individual self-sufficient units, non-communal, the resident pays all the costs himself over and above the rent which goes to the Corporation.
- Handicapped adults generating income would pay the same amount for their costs as do those on GAINS with the exception that as earnings increase, rent payments would increase.
- Control on care costs is through annual corporation budget approvals through the Ministry of Community and Social Services Director of Budgets, Agency Review.
- Operating advances would be necessary for the care package on the basis of an agreement so that the Non-Profit Corporation can pay its bills until it recovers Ministry subsidy.

### Advantages

- 1) The goal of integrating handicapped adults into buildings where non-handicapped people also live becomes achievable.
- 2) The handicapped adult controls his finances to a greater extent, increasing his opportunities for independence and self-determination.
- 3) Because the Ministry of Community and Social Services assumes care costs, the handicapped adult obtains accommodation on the same conditions as a non-handicapped adult.
- 4) The handicapped person is no longer dependent on charitable contributions to meet his needs.
- 5) It is guaranteed that the handicapped person will not pay more than 25% of his income — GAINS recipients may pay 18%. The rest of his income is freed up to meet his other needs.
- 6) Housing costs will be carried by the Ministry of Housing and social care costs will be met by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Thus these two separate needs will be met by the appropriate Ministry.



7) The employable handicapped person needing care can also be included in this program, since rent is geared to income.

The Chairman wrote to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development stating that Council members support in principle the provisions of the "Care Package" and that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Accommodation and Support Services will be looking at these provisions in more detail as they prepare their brief.

The Provincial Secretary replied that the ministries within the Social Development Policy Field and the Ministry of Housing will be giving further consideration to the subject of the Care Package.

## **VI DOG GUIDES – ACCESS TO PUBLIC PLACES**

In May 1975, Mrs. Birch asked for the Council's reaction to a possible change in legislation which would make it obligatory for places serving the public to admit dog guides and their owners. This question was, at that time, under study by the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Health.

The Chairman replied that this sort of legislative provision exists already in two Provinces (Alberta and British Columbia) and in the City of Montreal under a by-law. He stated that the Council recommended the enactment of similar legislation in Ontario.

The proposed legislation, entitled "An Act to provide for Certain Rights for Blind Persons" received its first reading in the Legislature on March 10, 1976.

## **VII HUMAN RIGHTS**

In 1975 a public review of the Ontario Human Rights Code was in the planning stage. This review will include an examination of the changing human rights needs of Ontario residents and of the adequacy of the present human rights legislation in meeting these needs. The Chairman and the Executive Officer of the Council have had some preliminary discussions with members of the Ontario Human Rights Commission concerning the possibility of the Advisory Council submitting a brief to the Commission. The Council has further assisted the Commission by suggesting other groups representing handicapped persons who might be interested in submitting briefs.

Mr. Harold Attin, Information Officer, Ontario Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Labour, attended a Council meeting and responded to questions and concerns of members regarding the

work of the Commission so that Council might gain a clearer understanding of the provisions of the Human Rights Code and their implementation.

Discussions have been held in Council meetings to determine whether a brief should be submitted and if so, to define the content of that brief. It has been agreed that a brief will be submitted, the content of which will reflect the feelings of Council re: human rights for the physically handicapped, and possible needed changes in the Human Rights Code.

## **VIII GOVERNMENT RESTRAINTS**

The Chairman in a letter to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development expressed the concerns of Council about the present program of government financial restraints. The possible impact of these restraints on the provision of services to the physically handicapped was questioned. In particular, concern was expressed as to whether the acceptance and implementation of the "Care Package" would be jeopardized by financial restraints. The possible effects of these restraints on the provision of a parallel public transit system, as recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee on Transportation, was also questioned.

Mrs. Birch replied that both the "Care Package" and Council's proposals on transportation for the handicapped are under active consideration.

## **IX SALES TAX REBATE ON THE PURCHASE OF VEHICLES FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED.**

In 1975 the Ontario Government, Ministry of Revenue, rebated the sales tax paid on the purchase of all new cars. This provision was discontinued in 1976. However, the Ministry of Revenue has decided to allow a sales tax rebate to the purchaser of a motor vehicle which is specially adapted to transport permanently physically handicapped persons. The rebate will not be available to purchasers who are engaged in the business of transporting people for commercial purposes.

The decision to provide the rebate to purchasers of vehicles specially adapted to transport the handicapped was arrived at after discussions between representatives of the Council and the Ministry of Revenue. After the provision comes into effect the Council's advice will be sought in the development of criteria for qualifications. The Council's offer of assistance in this area was a most important factor in causing this amendment to be instituted.

## **X THE PROVISION OF ASSISTIVE DEVICES TO HANDICAPPED PERSONS**

Assistive devices is a general term including prosthetic devices (eg. artificial limbs) orthotic devices (eg. spinal braces) and other aids such as wheelchairs which are essential to assist the handicapped person to function effectively in the home, the community or the place of work.

Under present Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) policies, prosthetic devices are paid for provided they are inserted into the human body as are artificial hips and cardiac pacemakers. If they are externally fitted (eg. artificial limbs) they are not.

The Council recommends that the provisions of OHIP be amended so that:

- a) major external prosthetic, orthotic and other essential assistive devices be furnished as an insured benefit where such devices are prescribed by medical or other authorized personnel (eg. designated members of an allied health discipline) and are furnished through approved facilities and persons.
- b) in addition to the cost of the devices, the cost of related skilled services be met.
- c) the same provisions be extended to the replacement or repair of such devices.

The Council also recommends that where people are now entitled to receive essential assistive devices and related services without charge under various income maintenance programs, they should continue to receive all devices and services provided under these programs even if some of these are not included in the proposed OHIP schedule of approved devices and services. The intent of this is to ensure that no person will lose any benefit to which he is entitled under a program presently in effect.

These recommendations will be submitted to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development for consideration by her and her colleague, the Minister of Health.

## **XI ONTARIO HOME RENEWAL PROGRAM**

O.H.R.P. was originally designed to bring substandard homes to a minimum standard acceptable to the participating municipality and the Ministry of Housing. Since the handicapped are often forced to inhabit homes designed for the able-bodied majority of the population, it may be argued that these homes are, for purposes of the handicapped population, substandard in that they require certain renovations to be made useable. It was via this rationale that consideration was first given to amending the O.H.R.P. program to include assistance for the handicapped homeowner and thereby alleviate the current apparent lack of home modi-

fication assistance programs in this Province.

The Chairman and the Executive Officer met with representatives of the Community Renewal Branch of the Ministry of Housing to assist program analysts in estimating the reception of the program by handicapped groups. They offered to assist this branch in formulating estimates as to how many applications might be received and what sort of renovations would probably most frequently be requested. The Chairman and the Executive Officer stated that in their opinion the demand for this assistance would be low to moderate and that any renovations would be of a modest nature. Subsequent to this, Mark Seasons, Program Analyst, Community Renewal Branch, Ministry of Housing, attended a Council meeting and responded to the questions and concerns of members. It was in large part as a result of these meetings with the Council that the Community Renewal Branch recommended that rapid action should be taken to introduce the option of including housing renovations for the physically handicapped in the 1976-77 Ontario Home Renewal Program.

The Chairman wrote to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development supporting the idea of a more liberal interpretation of the provisions of the Ontario Home Renewal Program so that the housing needs of the handicapped could be better met. Further, he suggested that the program be expanded to include tenants on long term leases as well as owner-occupiers.

## **XII THE ONTARIO BUILDING CODE — PART 5**

Part 5 of the new Ontario Building Code pertains to design and construction requirements for certain types of buildings or parts of buildings to ensure access to and useability by handicapped persons. Building requirements and design standards are dealt with in some detail. Building standards refer to the provision of such things as accessible entrances, ramps, elevators, seating capacity in auditoria and the like for persons in wheelchairs, and accessible washrooms and corridors. Design standards refer to the specifications for these provisions by outlining, for example, how wide an entrance must be to be accessible to a wheelchair user and what the angle of incline of a ramp should be.

The Council indirectly had some input into the formulation of Part 5 of the Ontario Building Code in that Mr. Gerald Clarke, representing the Ontario Federation for the Physically Handicapped and Mr. Andrew Clarke representing the Canadian Paraplegic Association served on a subcommittee of the Building Standards Committee which produced a report entitled "Report of the Subcommittee on Building Requirements for Handicapped Persons". As well, Mr. Graham Adams, Director of the



Uniform Building Standards Branch, Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, attended a Council meeting where he explained the provisions of the Code and answered the questions and concerns of Council relating to these provisions.

The Council appreciates the foresight shown by the Ontario Government who, through the provisions of the Building Code have shown their understanding of the needs of physically handicapped persons and have acted responsibly in this regard. The Council has requested the opportunity to provide input into any further revisions of Part 5 of the Building Code which may be considered in the future.

**XIII ELEVATORS IN GROUP HOMES**

At present it is extremely expensive to install an elevator in a small group home. The high costs are caused in part by the present rigid standards of elevator safety. The Council has held discussions with Mr. Gordon Smith, Director of the Elevating Devices Branch, Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations to assist them in designing standards for elevators in small group homes. It is considered by the Council that standards for elevators in these facilities need not be as rigid as those for elevators in commercial or office buildings. It is hoped by Council that these discussions will result in the design of new standards which will allow group homes to install elevators at a cost which is not prohibitive without sacrificing safety standards.

**XIV THE ELECTIONS ACT**

It is of considerable concern to Council that polling stations used at election time are frequently inaccessible to handicapped persons. As well, Council is concerned that in the last provincial election some Returning Officers failed to place advance polls in accessible locations and had, in fact, apparently failed to make even a reasonable attempt to do so. Discussions were held with Mr. Roderick Lewis, Q.C. Chief Election Officer on this subject. While Council recognizes the sheer impossibility of making all polling stations accessible since there are some 30,000 – 40,000 of these, it formulated certain recommendations aimed at improving the situation.

**Recommendation 1:**

The Chief Election Officer should take measures to ensure that all advance polls are accessible. While it may not be possible to make this mandatory within the provisions of The Elections Act, strong administrative measures should be taken to ensure that this goal is achieved as nearly as possible.

**Recommendation 2:**

Voters lists and other documents showing the location of polling places should be marked with the international symbol of access where this is the case.

**Recommendation 3:**

Where polling stations are accessible, this should be publicized prior to the election.

**XV REACTION TO THE FINAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE UTILIZATION OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES**

The Council was asked for its reactions to the recommendations of this report as they relate to the needs of handicapped people. These recommendations were:

**Recommendation 12:**

Ontario should recognize the special needs of the physically handicapped through the incorporation in the Ontario Building Code of clauses that will ensure access to and enable normal use of all new buildings.

**Recommendation 13:**

The Government of Ontario should provide special funds to school boards and municipalities to cover 80% of the cost of improving accessibility to existing public buildings for the physically handicapped. The physically handicapped should be directly involved in the development of proposed changes.

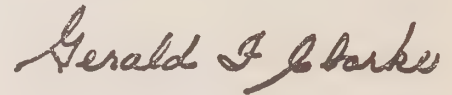
The Council expressed appreciation of the consideration which the Select Committee gave to the needs of physically handicapped people. However, these recommendations relate to subjects which the Council expects to study in considerable depth and concerning which it will have further and more extensive views in the future.

During its first year the Council has made a number of recommendations in the belief that the implementation of these would ensure a more rewarding life style for physically handicapped persons in Ontario. The entire question, however, of how best to meet the needs of this group is of such complexity as to require a great amount of further study by the Council.

The recommendations of Council have already affected certain programs on behalf of the physically handicapped and the Council intends to continue to recommend further improvements as needs are identified.

Council's success in identifying the many needs of physically handicapped persons depends to some extent on its ability to communicate with organizations in the community serving the handicapped. The Council and its members frequently receive requests for information on Council's activities and, while it is not the intent of Council to do a regular mailing to the public, those who have requested information concerning Council's activities will receive copies of the annual report. As well, the Council has considerable interest in the efforts which are being made on behalf of the physically handicapped by organizations throughout the Province and would very much welcome receiving letters, statements and reports from these groups.

The Council wishes to extend its appreciation to its staff members, Philippa McKen, Researcher, Lilian Groves, Secretary, Kathleen Featherstone, Recording Secretary and Harry Slipp, former Secretary. Appreciation is also extended to the staff of the Secretariat for Social Development for their generous co-operation and assistance. and assistance.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Gerald F. Burke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "G".

Executive Officer.

**Appendix 1**

**COPY OF AN ORDER-IN-COUNCIL APPROVED  
BY HER HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT  
GOVERNOR, DATED THE 5TH DAY OF  
FEBRUARY, A.D. 1975.**

Upon the recommendation of the Honourable Premier, the Committee of Council advise that an advisory body be established, to be known as the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped, hereinafter referred to as "the Council", with the following aims and composition:

- (1) To advise the Government of Ontario through the Provincial Secretary for Social Development on matters pertaining to the well-being of physically handicapped persons, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing:
  - (a) to further promote the development and creation of opportunity for self-help for the physically handicapped, to their satisfaction and advantage as members of society as a whole;
  - (b) to review current policies which have a bearing on the handicapped, involving education, employment, rehabilitation, income maintenance, health measures, services and facilities of government and otherwise, including programs on housing transportation, recreation, guardianship and other related services;
- (2) To submit an annual report to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development, in regard to the Council's recommendations and progress.
- (3) The Council shall consist of a Chairman and eighteen other members, all to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.
- (4) In the first instance, one half of the members shall be appointed for two years and one half for one year, and thereafter appointments shall be for a three-year term, once renewable.
- (5) The Council shall meet at least four times a year.

- (6) The Chairman and members shall receive remuneration at rates established by Management Board, and the Chairman and members shall be reimbursed for the travelling and living expenses incurred while engaged upon the business of the Council.

The Committee further advise that all Government Ministries, Boards, Agencies and Commissions shall assist the Council to the fullest extent in order that it may carry out its duties and functions, and that secretarial and other staff shall be provided to the Council by the Secretariat for Social Development.

Certified,  
Clerk, Executive Council.

**Appendix 2**

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE ONTARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE PHYSICALLY  
HANDICAPPED**

Edward A. Dunlop, Chairman	Toronto
Andrew C. Clarke	Willowdale
Walter H. Davis	Willowdale
Margaret E. Elliott	London
John Kellerman	Toronto
Stewart E. Kingstone	St. Catharines
David G. Koivisto	Thunder Bay
John R. Lane	Ottawa
Jack W. Longman	Windsor
Douglas F. Manuel	Oshawa
Catherine H. McBride	St. Catharines
Charles S. McCormack	Fort Frances
Margaret McLeod	Toronto
Clare R. Millar	Cambridge
Bluebell M. Planck	Oakville
J. Stobo Prichard	Willowdale
Heather Rankin	Willowdale
Robert L. Rumball	Caledon
M. Sally Sullivan	Toronto
John Yorke	West Hill



## **Appendix 3**

### **URBAN TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED**

**Report and Recommendations of the**

**Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped**

**JULY, 1975**

## Introduction

1. The Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped recognizes Alternative No. 1 identified in the Peat, Marwick & Partners report, (1) page VII-26, namely, "a transit service for the handicapped that approximates the service for the non-handicapped" as a desirable long term goal for Ontario's transportation policy for the disabled.
2. We further recognize Alternative No. 2 (page VII-26) as a reasonable and practical compromise at this time and therefore concur with Peat, Marwick & Partners in recommending that the Province move immediately to "... make limited, but substantial, steps in the direction of providing adequate transit service for the disabled. This direction would permit some experimentation and the opportunity to allow policies to develop."
3. Within the framework of this latter alternative, our recommendations follow.

## Summary of Recommendations

4. In the Council's view "... limited, but substantial, steps in the direction of providing adequate transit service for the disabled" must include:
  - (i) transportation systems providing as a minimum for work, shopping, educational and medical purposes, for the disabled of all age groups, who need, but are unable to use, public transportation. This involves the provision of a parallel public system separate and distinct from the regular public transit system, but catering to the special needs of the physically disabled by offering portal-to-portal service, utilizing vehicles specially equipped for the safe and convenient transportation of the disabled and staffed by drivers trained to handle the disabled safely and expertly, and
  - (ii) minor modifications to existing systems to upgrade standards of safety and convenience for those of moderate disability who are capable of using regular transit but have difficulty doing so.
5. Later, when the Council has had time to study its cost and other implications, it expects to make recommendations relating to financial assistance to physically handicapped persons for the private purchase of personal transportation. The Council is, however, convinced of the urgent necessity and immediate practicality

of implementing the recommendations contained in paragraph 4.

## Proposed Parallel Public System

6. While public transit is universally accepted as a fundamental need of the general population, it is even more critical to the majority of disabled people in order to provide access to employment, education and the whole range of community services.
7. Total integration of the disabled into urban mass transportation systems does not seem to be a practical immediate goal and we question its viability as a long term goal for those with severe ambulatory disabilities. We urge, however, that when planning extensions of existing public transit systems or inaugurating new systems, including purchase of new equipment, every consideration be given to the needs of those with physical handicaps which are very real although not necessarily visible, e.g., those with heart and respiratory problems and the elderly.
8. The parallel public system for the disabled is, however, a practical solution in the Ontario situation considering climate and all other factors. It offers maximum benefits for the least cost and can be established with little time delay using available equipment and technology. A parallel public system would serve the major needs of the bulk of the severely disabled for trips within municipal boundaries. For this reason, it is considered to be of paramount priority by this Council. This has been demonstrated through experiments conducted in Ottawa-Carlton and Toronto.

## User Groups

9. The parallel public system should be designed specifically for those whose disability prevents them using the regular public transit system or other conventional means of transportation. This is the priority group in any transportation policy for the disabled as they have little alternative.
10. The Advisory Council recommends that eligibility for service be based on a certified registration, attesting that the individual is unable to use public transportation. A sworn statement by the individual should suffice, with the onus on the municipality or Province to prove ineligibility in cases of doubt. The alternative of demanding medical certification from all users should only be resorted to if significant abuse of the honour system develops.

## Proposed Minor Modifications to Existing Systems

11. This program would serve those with "moderate transportation disabilities", i.e., those who

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(1) Peat, Marwick & Partners — "Urban Transportation for the Disabled, January, 1975", a report for the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

can use existing public systems, but only with difficulty and/or personal risk. Without modifications to existing systems, many of these people might be carried at greater cost on the proposed parallel system. This group would include many blind persons and people with canes and balance problems as well as the elderly.

12. The minor modifications suggested would be of negligible cost over the life of the modifications and would undoubtedly provide safety and convenience features which would improve service to some persons in such groups as the blind, the elderly and those with marginal ambulatory disabilities. Such modifications would include the provision of grab bars and stanchions, and the reservation of certain designated seats for the disabled. These increased standards should shift some ridership from the more expensive parallel system.

### The Role of the Province

13. The provision of a parallel public system or of the minor modifications to existing systems are transportation issues. Using as a model the current Ministry of Transportation and Communications policy of subsidizing 75% of capital cost and 50% of operating deficit of regular municipal transit, this Council sees the capital cost situation as basically the same, and thus recommends the same subsidy of 75%. The operating deficit for the proposed parallel public system can be expected to be higher than for a regular system, thus arguing for an operating subsidy greater than the regular 50%. This increased provincial subsidy to encourage municipal participation is justified by the likelihood that offsetting savings to other programs (education, employment, health related transportation, etc.) will largely accrue to the province. A 100% subsidy, however, would remove the important incentive to efficiency provided by municipal sharing in actual operating cost. This Council therefore recommends a provincial subsidy of the operating deficit in the area of 75%, possibly more.
14. This Council sees municipal administration of the parallel public system as an efficiency safeguard. A municipality is directly accountable to the community and in the best position to tailor the system to the local needs and resources. The portion of the operating cost borne by a municipality should supply sufficient incentive to provide an efficient system.
15. The above rationale notwithstanding, the Advisory Council sees one serious drawback in this permissive approach. Disabled citizens in some municipalities will be denied a system due to reluctance of the local government to assume responsibility. In order to minimize this risk, the provincial subsidy should be made sufficiently attractive to all municipalities. The case has already been made for an addition, we recommend that the province should provide some mechanism whereby a municipality might appeal for a larger subsidy on a special case basis. Some municipalities may legitimately argue that their size, climate or other unusual local factors make their operating costs extraordinarily high. These may interfere with provision of a transit system for the physically disabled. The province should be prepared to offset such special costs. This equalization of major cost irregularities should strengthen the hand of disabled community groups pressuring their municipality for "equal treatment". This carrot approach to reluctant municipalities would seem more feasible than the Province trying to force a mandatory approach, by-passing the cost-sharing mechanism.
16. The Council feels some concern regarding possible strategies the Province might adopt in the early stages of implementation. In particular, the possibility of an arbitrary ceiling on initial year's costs, is seen as potentially counter-productive. If the municipalities bear a portion of the capital and operating costs of local projects, it seems certain that a cautious, conservative approach to the implementation of these recommendations will follow naturally. If, on the other hand, arbitrary cost ceilings are enforced — whether applied on a project-by-project or per capita basis — serious distortions may be built into the system from the start. The Ottawa-Carlton experience has shown that costs per trip are lower for a professionally run system and tend to decrease with increased ridership. A cost ceiling could be expected to lead to an inefficient operation with high per trip costs. It would also tend to generate systems leaning heavily on poorly paid drivers or volunteers. While these might seem expedient in the short term, given a cost ceiling, it is felt they would tend to produce in the long run both poor service at the local level, and an unrealistic picture of program costs for provincial planning purposes.
17. The Advisory Council recommends that both the interests of the Province and of the consumer would be best served by letting the municipalities develop their own projects subject to their carrying a percentage of the actual cost, rather than working within the confines of arbitrary cost ceilings.
18. Generous and competent consultation from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications would seem to be required by the municipalities. It was further noted with some interest that "group transportation services. . .for the purpose of helping disabled people to become more self-dependent. . ." may soon be



eligible for cost-sharing with the federal government. (2)

#### Private Purchase of Personal Transportation

19. The provision of a parallel system of public transportation for the physically disabled combined with minor modifications to the existing systems, would still find many of the physically disabled deprived of adequate transportation, or suffering serious transportation disadvantages vis-a-vis the able-bodied. Obvious among these are the physically disabled who live in small towns or rural areas, where it would not be feasible to establish the recommended parallel system.
20. Many physically disabled persons could drive, or learn to drive, ordinary automobiles or vans specially modified for their use. Such modifications include hand controls for braking and acceleration, ramps and lifts to facilitate entry to the vehicle and locking devices to secure the position of the disabled person in the vehicle. Such modifications are now available within existing technology, but they tend to be expensive.
21. We have in mind that the physically handicapped tend to be at the bottom of the income scale but the handicap itself poses transportation problems, the solutions to which are expensive. Barriers to the purchase of adapted vehicles, or to the private purchase of the transportation services of others, are economic.
22. At this time the Council is not able to make specific recommendations in the area of assisting the disabled in the private purchase of personal transportation. The cost and other implications require much further study. Problems exist in defining the disabled persons who should be eligible, and in estimating their numbers. Assistance towards the private purchase of personal transportation is seen as being primarily a socio-economic issue rather than one of transportation. In this sense, ultimate provincial responsibility for such assistance would seem properly to be located with the Ministry of Community and Social Services and not the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.
23. There is a need for further research and development in the area of transportation adapted to the needs of the physically disabled, including private transportation and the modification of existing public and private vehicles. It is hoped that these are matters which will be further addressed by the Urban Transit Development Agency in collaboration with the Federal Transportation Development Agency and the automobile industry.

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(2) Communique: Meeting of Federal and Provincial Ministers of Welfare, Ottawa, April 30 and May 1, 1975



**Appendix 1**

**LONDON ABILITY CENTRE TRANS-  
PORTATION SERVICE FOR THE PHYSICALLY  
HANDICAPPED**

**Operator**

The Ability Centre, London, Ontario

**Method of Financing**

LIP grants for part of each year. Ability Founda-  
tion pays the operating expenses when LIP grants  
have been exhausted, utilizing the dispatching unit  
as a Work Training Station for clients of the Centre.

**No. and Type of Equipment Used**

One van type vehicle equipped with lift, valued at  
\$7,000 new and complete, donated by the Rotary  
Club.  
Capacity — 4 wheelchair and 3 jump seat riders.

**Trip Purposes per Week**

Reason	Frequency	Percentage
School	6	4.580
Medical	36	27.481
Recreation	34	25.954
Employment	34	25.954
Workshop	9	6.870
Other	12	9.161
Total	131	100.000

**Hours of Operation**

The van operates from 0800 hours to 1800 hours  
Monday through Friday with a salaried driver and  
in the evenings and on Sundays with volunteer  
drivers.

**No. of Passengers**

131 passengers per week.

**No. of One-Way Trips**

81 per week average.

**Cost**

Budgeted cost of operation for 1975 — \$21,500,  
of which the Ability Fund expects to contribute  
approximately \$9,500.

**Other**

Dispatching is by “page boy” system rented from  
local cable company

**Information Source**

Mrs. Margaret E. Elliott

**Appendix 2**

**OSHAWA HANDI-TRANSIT**

**Operator**

Oshawa and District Handicapped Club Inc.

**Method of Financing**

Service inaugurated in July, 1973 and has been financed by a LIP grant of \$18,000 a year renewed once, which is for administrative and staff expenses, plus a grant of \$5,000 from the City of Oshawa and funds raised from the community. Annual cost is \$30,000 plus. Current LIP grant expired June 30, 1975. Funds on hand raised locally, sufficient to carry on the service for July and August, 1975. Have applied to the Public Utilities Commission for further funding.

**No. and Type of Equipment Used**

Equipment consists of one van donated by Oshawa Central Lions Club. A second van has been offered.

**Trip Purposes**

No limitation on trip purposes but priority given to medical, work and school purposes. Medical (therapy) trips are utilizing the majority of the day-time van time.

**Hours of Operation**

Service operates from 0730 hours to 2330 hours, Monday through Friday, with a staff of one office manager, two drivers and two attendants.

**No. of People Served**

150 people utilize the service in an area with a population of about 100,000.

**No. of One-Way Trips**

Average 400 to 500 one-way trips per month.

**Cost**

Cost of \$6.00 per one-way trip.

**Information Source**

Mr. Douglas F. Manuel

**Appendix 3**

**OTTAWA-CARLTON TRANSPO (Handicapped Service)**

**Operator**

Ottawa-Carlton Transpo contracted out to M & O Bus Lines.

**Methods of Financing**

Inaugurated in 1972 with LIP and OFY grants but came under O.C. Transpo funding and operation in March, 1974. Continued funding by the Region of Ottawa-Carlton is subject to provincial government involvement, which is still under negotiation. A 50¢ trip fare is charged to users.

**No. and Type of Equipment**

Equipment consists of 8 vehicles of which 3 are small van type buses equipped with electric hoists and capable of carrying 7 wheelchair passengers. The other 5 vehicles are regular 4-door automobiles.

**Trip Purposes**

Trip purposes are limited to work, medical and post secondary education.

**Hours of Operation**

The service operates from 0700 hours to 1700 hours Monday through Friday.

**No. of People Served**

Serves 850 handicapped persons in the Ottawa-Carlton Region who are registered for service, certified by medical doctors as being unable to use regular public transit. About one-third of the users are in wheelchairs. The remaining two-thirds are ambulatory in some fashion, including with canes, crutches and walkers. The ambulatory group slow the service down more than the wheelchair users.

**No. of One-Way Trips**

Average 1,000 one-way trips per week.

**Cost**

Cost is \$3,275 a week. The net cost is \$2,775 per week after deducting fare revenue of \$500 a week. The net cost per one-way trip to O.C. Transpo is \$2.78. Gross cost per trip is \$3.28. Low cost is achieved by co-ordinating and combining trips as much as possible; by using radio dispatched vehicles as the handicapped tend to cancel at the last minute; and by constant and careful monitoring of each vehicle. The operator is supplied by O.C. Transpo with forms for driver records showing person picked up, time and place, time and place of delivery.

**Information Source**

Mr. Ernie Paine, O.C. Transpo



**Appendix 4**

**TORONTO TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
TRANSPORTATION OF THE PHYSICALLY  
HANDICAPPED – PILOT PROJECT**

**Operator**

Operated by the T.T.C., contracted out to Wheel-chair Mobile Services.

**Method of Financing**

Financed by the T.T.C. which accepted one of three bids for the contract at \$311,000 for two years. There is provision in the contract for a price review after 6 months' experience. The user is charged a regular transit fare (currently 3 tickets for \$1). Indication is that the contract price will have to be adjusted upwards. Service inaugurated February, 1975. Funding is shared by Metro Toronto and the Province on a 50/50 basis.

**No. and Type of Equipment**

Equipment used consists of 7 or 8 raised roof van type vehicles with side loading by means of ramps. Maximum capacity is 5 wheelchair passengers plus ambulatory passengers.

**Trip Purposes**

Limited to regular trips to and from work at this time, but not necessarily for the full two years of the project.

**Hours of Operation**

Operates during morning hours for delivery to work and in the afternoon for return from work. Essentially this is from 0600 hours to 1000 hours in the morning and from 1630 hours to 1830 hours in the evening. In between, the operator may use the vehicles for his regular "on demand" private service.

**No. of People Served**

Carries 49 people to and from work on a regular basis five days a week. Selection was made from 1,000 replies to newspaper advertising for physically handicapped persons who required transportation to and from work or who stated that they would be able to work if transportation was available. Only 50 qualified.

**No. of One-Way Trips**

98 one-way trips per day.

**Cost**

Approximately \$6.00 per one-way trip.

**Other**

Time studies are being done and customer surveys are planned. The intent of the study is to gain experience in the operating and financial aspects of providing a parallel public transit system for the disabled with a view to expanding it to the non-working disabled and for all trip purposes.

**Information Source**

Mr. Ross Kelly, T.T.C.

Appendix 5

THUNDER BAY HANDI-TRANSIT

Operator

The Handicapped Action Group

Method of Financing

A LIP grant of \$25,000 for 6 months plus donations from organizations and individuals. LIP grant covers period January 7, 1975 to July 6, 1975. City has agreed to financing the service on a month-to-month basis after July 6, 1975. Group has applied to the federal government for an extension of grants. The city has recommended that whatever sort of financing is arranged, the service should not come under direct operation by the city transit system. The city would prefer to see the present group operate it.

No. and Type of Equipment

One van donated by the Kiwanis Club of Westfort Inc. van with folding ramp.

Trip Purposes

No limitation, but priority given to work trips.

Hours of Operation

Service operates 15 hours a day Monday through Saturday and 12 hours on Sunday, with a staff of 1 manager, 3 drivers, 3 dispatchers and 1 volunteer part-time bookkeeper. Hours are 0800 to 2300 Monday through Saturday and 1000 to 2200 on Sunday.

No. of People Served

Approximately 300, constantly changing.

No. of One-Way Trips

629 one-way trips in May, 1975.

Cost

Cost per week — \$1,127. Cost per trip based on number of trips for May, 1975 — approximately \$7.75.

Other

Does not handle children. Three handicapped persons are employed in the service and have been removed from the social assistance rolls.

Information Source

Mr. David G. Koivisto

Trip Breakdown to Date — May 31, 1975

The first breakdown is by Column A, representing wheelchair users, and Column B, representing any other type of handicapped person.

	A	B
Employment	249	126
Medical	71	131
Therapy (North Ward)	13	168
(Sough Ward)	0	89
Recreation (Swimming)	29	38
(Bingo)	117	11
(Other)	195	123
Personal Business	83	54
Shopping	104	28
Religion	7	11
Miscellaneous	15	21
Meetings	62	26
Education	38	2
	983	828 = 1,811

The month of May again showed an ever-increasing demand for the use of Handi-Transit. During the month, the number of miles driven increased to 3,933 and the number of trips handled increased to 629. These May figures combined with the 3 preceding months now bring the total number of miles driven to 12,465 and the total number of trips handled to 1,811. This will account for the actual number of handicapped people transported — approximately 2,717.

These figures represent transportation for people mainly in the 17 to 65 age bracket.

**Appendix 6**

**DISABLED ADULT  
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**

**What is DATS?**

The DATS Demonstration Project is a unique new transportation system of the City of Edmonton. DATS was inaugurated on April 28, 1975, to serve disabled individuals who are unable to use the existing Edmonton Transit System (E.T.S.). The project, the first comprehensive plan of its type in Canada, was developed by the City of Edmonton staff and citizen representatives from handicapped and elderly organizations in Edmonton. It is a project created by the City of Edmonton to bring mobility to persons heretofore denied access to public transportation.

The system provides special public transportation equipment and subscription service, featuring door-to-door transportation, with priority given to work, education, and rehabilitation trips made by the disabled.

**Eligibility**

- a. Individuals who are unable to use the existing public transit system, or who use it with a great degree of difficulty, for whatever the reason, are eligible to use DATS.
- b. In the peak hours, work trips, education trips, and medical trips will be given priority over all other trips. In the off-peak hours, medical trips will have priority, however, other trips will be catered to (eg. shopping, recreational, personal business).
- c. Where there is a clustering of users, these people will have priority.
- d. People must register with DATS to be eligible to use the service.

**Registration**

It will be necessary for all ELIGIBLE persons to REGISTER with the DATS Project in order to use the door-to-door transportation services. Information concerning registration can be obtained from the Transportation Planning Branch (425-5984) and the DATS office.

**No Registration Fee**

**Remember You Must Register To Use DATS**

Please notify the Transportation Planning Branch (425-5984) if your address changes AFTER you register.

**Please Have Your DATS Registration Card Available. You May Be Requested To Present It When Boarding The DATS Vehicle.**

(Please note: The City of Edmonton reserves the right to review any registrants who they feel might be abusing the system).

**DATS Services**

DATS makes provision for FIVE types of transportation service.

**1. RESERVATION SERVICE:**

You must call 426-6097 or 426-6098 at LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE of your intended trip. Your request will be good for this particular trip only, plus, of course, the return trip to your home. Reservations will be accepted up until 8:00 p.m. every day.

**2. SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE:**

Use the same procedure as Reservation Service except this service is a continuing arrangement, whereby we will book you for the same time, same day, every week until you notify us to cancel the service or change it. Only one call is necessary for each subscription. You may have more than one subscription request in effect at the same time.

For example: Work Trip 9:00 a.m. Monday to Friday, Handicapped Housing Society, indefinitely; Medical Trip, 10:00 a.m. every Thursday for six weeks, University Hospital; and shopping trip, 3:00 p.m. every Saturday, Southgate Shopping Centre. PLEASE ADVISE DATS, AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE, OF THE CANCELLATION OF ANY ONE OF SUBSCRIPTION TRIPS.

**3. DEMAND RESPONSE SERVICE:**

This is the only DATS service that is provided on the same day that you call and will be on a SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS. Please note, THIS IS NOT INTENDED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR POLICE, FIRE, OR AMBULANCE EMERGENCIES.

One precaution should be exercised when anticipating use of this service. SEAT SPACES MAY ALREADY BE FILLED WITH RESERVATION OR SUBSCRIPTION RIDERS, THEREFORE YOU SHOULD NOT DEPEND ON THIS SERVICE FOR ROUTINE TRAVEL.

**4. AFTER HOURS SERVICE:**

This service is designed for use of the DATS vehicles between 7:00 p.m. and Midnight.

You must call 426-6097 or 426-6098 at LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE of your intended trip. Your request will be good for this particular trip only, plus of course, the return trip to your home.

However, if your after hours trip is a regular one, either every night, or one or two nights every week, you may request SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE.



5. CHARTER SERVICE:

This service is for those groups who wish to charter the DATS vehicles. You must call AT LEAST 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE of your intended trip. Charter requests will only be catered to IF THE DATS VEHICLES ARE AVAILABLE. PLEASE NOTE: The DATS transportation services will only be available for THOSE TRIPS ORIGINATING AND DESTINATING IN THE CITY LIMITS OF EDMONTON.

Service Standards

No individual passenger will be required to remain in the transport vehicle FOR MORE THAN ONE AND A HALF HOURS ON ANY ONE-WAY TRIP.

Schedules shall guarantee that no individual will arrive at his/her place of destination MORE THAN ONE HOUR IN ADVANCE OF HIS/HER APPOINTMENT or be required to remain at his/her place of destination MORE THAN ONE HOUR AFTER HIS/HER APPOINTMENT IS COMPLETED.

The driver of the DATS vehicle WILL, WHERE NECESSARY, give assistance to disabled individuals when

- a. BOARDING AND LEAVING THE VEHICLE
- b. ENTERING AND LEAVING THE PLACE OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION.

Telephone To Use DATS:

426-6097 426-6098

Required Information

Whenever you telephone to request service please be prepared to answer the following questions in order to complete your call quickly.

Information	Example
Arrival Time at Your Destination	8:30 a.m.
Your Requisition Number	125p
Your Name	Mr. John Doe
Your Telephone Number	425-8000
Your Address	Aberhart Hospital
Your Destination	Edmonton Re- habilitation Centre
Departure Time from Your Destination	5:00 p.m.
Number of Other Passengers	One
Type of Trip	Work

Trip Purpose

You may travel to any destination within the City of Edmonton for whatever purpose you so desire.

The DATS Project will be maintaining statistics on the following trip purposes which generally cover all possible situations: Medical, dental, shopping, recreation, personal business, employment/volunteer work, educational.

If your trip purpose is not evident to the Dispatcher he may ask for clarification. Furthermore, please inform the dispatcher of the type of service you are requesting (i.e., Reservation, Subscription, Demand Response, After Hours, Charter).

Vehicles Will Operate Monday Through Sunday

- 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. — For only reservation, subscription, and demand response services.
- 7:00 p.m. to MIDNIGHT — For only after hour services.
- 6:30 a.m. to MIDNIGHT — For only charter services, if DATS vehicles are available.

Fares

ALL SERVICES — \$0.50 each way or \$1.00 return trip per person. Attendants, family, or friends same fare structure as above.

Exact Fare Only

PLEASE PAY EXACTLY \$1.00 TO THE DATS DRIVER WHO WILL GIVE YOU A DOUBLE TICKET — ONE FOR THE FIRST PART OF YOUR TRIP — THE OTHER FOR YOUR RETURN TRIP.

PLEASE NOTE: Unused return tickets may be used at a later date.

Telephone Numbers

- DATS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES:  
426-6097 OR 426-6098
- datS information 425-5984
- DATS REGISTRATION 425-5984
- DATS COMPLAINTS 465-7371
- (Complaints only between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday).

DATS Address:

- DATS OPERATOR  
10517 - 107 STREET  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
- DATS is a pilot transportation program designed by the City of Edmonton and the Disabled Advisory Council to provide Edmonton’s disabled individual adults greater independence.

THE ONTARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED.

Integration, Independence and Inter-dependence For  
The Physically Handicapped in Ontario —  
A Policy Focus For The Province.

By: The Ad Hoc Committee on  
Accommodation and Support  
Services for the Severely  
Handicapped.

April, 1976.

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## DEFINITION

FOR PURPOSES OF THIS REPORT, A PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSON IS DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

A PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSON IS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS IMPAIRED IN FUNCTIONING IN ONE OR MORE AREAS OF DAILY LIVING. THIS IMPAIRMENT CAUSES UNUSUAL AND LONG TERM DEPENDENCY ON OTHER PEOPLE AND/OR MECHANICAL DEVICES.

# Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped

## Ad Hoc Committee on Accommodation and Support Services for the Severely Handicapped.

### INTEGRATION, INDEPENDENCE AND INTER-DEPENDENCE FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED IN ONTARIO — A POLICY FOCUS FOR THE PROVINCE.

#### Introduction

During the past decade, changes have occurred which have increased the opportunities of the physically handicapped person to enjoy a greater degree of self-determination than was formerly possible. Opportunities for education, employment, mobility, and travel have increased. Also, the attitudes of the physically handicapped as well as those of the general public now encourage the integration of the handicapped into the life of the community more than was formerly the case. A number of these changes have resulted from government policies, and it is to be hoped that in the future, further policies will evolve which will offer more availability of choice to handicapped people, ensuring that each person will have the opportunity to achieve his maximum level of independence and self-determination.

It is further to be hoped that future policies will go beyond the provision of basic life needs to all, and that they will create opportunities for all people to enjoy a more fulfilling life style, no matter what their physical handicap. The Honourable Margaret Birch, Secretary of Social Development speaking on opportunities for senior citizens, states that many of the programs planned by and for senior citizens are not merely concerned with questions of survival but also with:

“the building of challenging and creative opportunities.”

She states further:

“We have gone beyond the point where all our energies must be devoted to questions of finance and health”.

These ideas should apply equally well to programs intended for the physically handicapped. Since the lot of many physically handicapped persons continues to be an unenviable one, expansion of present programs is necessary, as is the building of new programs.

It is felt that the physically handicapped should receive government support under programs designed specifically for them, as do senior citizens and the mentally retarded. As a result of programs designed specifically for the latter groups, these citizens have been able to contribute more fully to their communities.

The present financial cutbacks which Ontario is imposing on its programs should not penalize the physically handicapped because they are numerically a minority group. Approximately 750,000 people in Ontario are physically handicapped and the needs of such a sizeable minority must be considered.

In the body of this report are presented a number of policy recommendations as well as a number of more specific recommendations. However, the three most important aspects of the report can be summarized as follows:

- 1) Within reason, a choice of accessible accommodation must be made available to the physically handicapped similar to that available to all others in this society.
- 2) In order that the physically handicapped may avail themselves of this choice of accommodation, a broad range of support services must be provided. These services would make available a continuum of care which would have, at one end of the scale, complete independence, and at the other end of the scale, necessary care in an institution. Thus, each individual would receive the services needed for his particular level of dependence and could choose to move along the scale as his independence increased and his need for care decreased.
- 3) Physically handicapped persons should be responsible for their ordinary costs of living, as is an able-bodied individual, but should not be expected to pay for the extraordinary expenses incurred because of a physical handicap.

Although it is the purpose of this report to suggest that government bodies should provide the above accommodation and support services, in no way is the important input of the voluntary sector being negated. It is expected that the role of the volunteer — that of the concerned citizen or group — will continue to play a part in any future system of services.

It is to be hoped that the recommendations in this report will go far towards the goal of ensuring that people may live independently in the community, rather than being forced, for lack of alternatives, to seek institutional care.

## A. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

I) Government programs on behalf of the physically handicapped must be co-ordinated to ensure:

- i) a maximally rational system
- ii) maximum access to programs
- iii) maximum equity for all people irrespective of locale

II) Options in accommodation styles must be increased so that the physically handicapped person may choose from a wider range of alternatives than presently exists.

III) The opportunities of a physically handicapped person to remain in the community whether living independently or with his family or in a group home should be maximized by the provision of support services to that individual. In this way the goal of maximizing the independence of the individual would be attained, usually at less cost than would be incurred by providing institutional care for the same person.

IV) The provision of these support services should be of such a scope that a total continuum of care is available to the physically handicapped on the basis of physical need.

V) Adequate numbers of staff should be specifically trained to provide the support services needed by the physically handicapped and the availability of the services should reflect local needs.

VI) Standards of training and service must be further defined to meet the needs of the physically handicapped and training courses must reflect these standards.

VII) Physically handicapped persons should receive accommodation and support services specifically designed for their needs. They should not be placed in institutional facilities which are designed, in terms of administrative structure and program content, to serve other target groups (eg. the aged or the ill) whose needs are not the same in many cases, as those of the physically handicapped.

## B) ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Issue One

**There is a lack of co-ordination in the planning and delivery of accommodation and support services to the physically handicapped.**

All three levels of government, municipal, provincial, and federal, are involved with planning and delivering accommodation and support services to the physically handicapped. At the provincial level, at least three ministries are involved in the planning and provision of such services. Approximately 25

pieces of legislation govern the delivery of these services. (See appendix one)

This situation causes several problems. First, because of the numbers of planning and delivery agencies, discrepancies in goals and objectives may occur. Secondly, users of services find the multiplicity of delivery systems confusing. Thirdly, no act contains provisions allowing for the funding of accommodation or support services to meet the specific needs of the physically handicapped. For example, presently application must be made under the Charitable Institutions Act, the Homes for the Aged Act or the Homes for Retarded Persons Act.

### Recommendations

I) A single body should be established by the secretariat for social development, to whom it would be accountable. It would have the following responsibilities:

- i) to co-ordinate, plan and evaluate policy administration
- ii) to disseminate information and perform a liaison function between agencies acting on behalf of the handicapped.
- iii) to conduct research into programs providing accommodation and support services for the physically handicapped.
- iv) to attempt to rationalize the regional disparities across the Province in the provision of these services caused by the present permissive legislation.

2) The Ontario Advisory Council on the physically handicapped should be involved in the formation of this body to ensure that the body will include expert representation from all responsible governmental agencies and the private sector.

### Issue Two

**There is a lack of consistency across the province in the application of government programs for the physically handicapped.**

Accommodation and support services are governed to some extent by legislation which is permissive rather than mandatory. Therefore, a service provided in one locale may be lacking in another. Regional financial disparities determine, to a great extent, the availability of services and personnel.

As well, regional priorities determine the degree to which research is conducted into the needs of the physically handicapped, and accordingly, there are variations from locale to locale in terms of the availability of such information.

### Recommendations

1) The Homemakers and Nurses Services Act should be changed from permissive to mandatory legislation.



2) A research study, should be conducted, on a geographic basis, to investigate the circumstances — social, financial and vocational — of individuals with comparable disabilities in different living situations (eg. chronic care hospitals, group homes, their own homes), so that local needs may be determined.

### Issue Three

**There is a lack of suitable accessible accommodation available to the physically handicapped.**

The physically handicapped person does not have the same choice of accommodation as does the general public although many could live in existing accommodation with only minor modifications through alterations. While there presently exist certain government programs which fund these modifications and alterations, these are limited in their application for the physically handicapped. There also exist subsidized housing and subsidized rental programs, which are not as responsive to the needs of the physically handicapped as they should be.

### Recommendations

1) Low interest loans and/or grants should be made available through the creation of new programs and/or the expansion of existing programs, for modification of accommodations so that they all become accessible to the physically handicapped. This could be through the Ministry of Housing (Ontario Home Renewal Program) and the Ministry of Community and Social Services (Rehabilitation Branch).

2) Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Ontario Housing Corporation, when providing preferential loans to developers and municipalities, should provide incentives to make some units in the private sector available to the physically handicapped by use of the minimum accessibility criteria. This could occur through the following programs:

- i) Integrated Community Housing (Ministry of Housing)
- ii) Ontario Housing Action Program (Ministry of Housing)
- iii) Accelerated Rental Housing Program (C.M.H.C. and O.H.C.)
- iv) Home Ownership made Easy (Ministry of Housing)

### Issue Four

**There are too few alternatives for the physically handicapped between total independent living in the community and total care in an institution.**

Many physically handicapped people may continue to live in their own homes if support services are

made available to them. These may include, for example:

- Medical and Nursing Care
- Care by allied health discipline personnel (eg. Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy).
- Non-medical attendant services.
- Homemakers
- Home maintenance
- Nutritional services
- Home aids
- Transportation

Most physically handicapped people do not require the high level of professional care supplied in institutions and past experience shows that it is often less expensive to provide support services to the individual in his own home than to place him in an institution. Providing support services to the individual in the setting of his choice reduces the need for institutional care and promotes maximum independence for the individual. Group home living (see Appendix two) combined with the provision of support services is an example of a life style part way along a continuum which has, at one end, total independent living in the community and at the other end, total care in an institution.

Several factors at this time are impeding the delivery of a full range of support services to physically handicapped people in Ontario. First, current legislation and funding mechanisms encourage institutionalization, since funding for support services must be partially sought from charitable sources. Secondly, the funding for certain support services (eg. group homes — see appendix three) which imposes a per diem ceiling allows for such low salaries for support staff that it is often difficult to acquire and keep personnel. Thirdly, because of the permissive legislation enabling municipalities to decide the extent of their involvement in the provision of homemaker and nursing services, a full continuum of support services may be more available in one locale than another.

Fourthly, means tests which govern the decision as to whether a person must pay for support services or whether he may receive them without charge do not allow for the extraordinary financial needs of the physically handicapped. Fifthly, although there are government programs to assist physically handicapped persons with vocational issues (ie. administered by the Rehabilitation Branch, Ministry of Community & Social Services), other facets of the individual's development (eg. education, socialization, daily living activities) are all but ignored. Sixthly, current government programs providing support services emphasize the "custodial" aspects of care, rather than the "rehabilitative".

In sum, the lack of a full range of support services providing a total continuum of care encourages the over-utilization of costly institutional care and forces an unnecessarily dependent life-style on the physically handicapped person. This is clearly not a rational situation.

### **The Physically Handicapped Individual Living With His Family**

The statements re: support services in the above section apply equally to the physically handicapped person living with his family. The development of a physically handicapped person to a maximum level of independence can be aided by the support of a strong family unit. However, many families are unable to bear the costs of making their homes architecturally accessible for a family member with a mobility problem and support services for the individual with such a problem are not readily available. Often these services are required for the individual living with his family to assist them in their physical, emotional and time outputs on behalf of the physically handicapped family member. The cost of maintaining a disabled individual in the family environment is, in most cases, much less than the costs of maintaining that individual in an institution.

### **Recommendations**

- 1) The Ontario Government should implement the "Care Package". Alternative No. 3, as amended by the Ontario Federation For The Physically Handicapped (see appendix 4) which allows for the delivery of care in a non-institutional setting. (eg. a group home or a rent subsidy project or unit).
- 2) Homemaker Services under the Ministry of Health, Home Care Program for chronic care should be available even when additional services by medical or paramedical personnel are not required — as well, the present 80/40 hour limit on Homemaker Services should be removed. These two steps would ensure that more people needing only Homemaker Services could remain in their choice of accommodation.
- 3) The independent body referred to in issue one, recommendation 1 should be responsible for ensuring the availability and co-ordination of support services and delivery mechanisms along a continuum from institutional living to independent living.
- 4) No financial means test should act as a barrier to receiving support services where there is a physical need.
- 5) Where financial means tests are conducted, the extraordinary costs of living borne by the physically handicapped must be taken into account.
- 6) The per diem and charitable method of funding should be eliminated and projects judged on the

basis of their individual merits and the needs which they fill. The removal of per diem ceilings and decreased dependency on charitable funding would help make available the continuum of care in various settings.

- 7) Government rehabilitation programs should be expanded beyond vocational aims to include other important facets of an individual's development. (eg. education, socialization etc.).
- 8) There should be enough flexibility within the proposed continuum of care to allow each individual to move between levels, but such movement should not be demanded.
- 9) The rehabilitation process should utilize such accommodation styles as transition residences and/or group homes. (see appendices 2 and 3)
- 10) A continuum of home support services should be provided to the physically handicapped person living with his family. These should include all support services mentioned earlier, plus holiday and emergency relief services.
- 11) The Ontario Ministry of Housing should design a program to assist the physically handicapped person or his family to meet the costs of adapting a house to make it accessible.

### **Issue Five**

**There is a shortage of adequate personnel to provide needed support services in the community, and a lack of clearly defined standards of training.**

Government and service agencies do not have adequate personnel to meet present community needs and the promotion of mandatory support services through the Homemakers & Nurses Services Act is likely to increase the need for additional staff. At present, training programs (eg. those for Visiting Homemakers or those offered in schools of nursing) give minimal emphasis to the appropriate care of the physically handicapped living at home or in institutions.

In planning a training program designed to teach personnel how to deal with the needs of the disabled, it must be remembered that the personal suitability of the trainee is important, and that the needs for various support services for the physically handicapped may vary from locale to locale.

### **Recommendations**

- 1) Government and service agencies providing support services should recognize the need to increase their staffs to meet the demands both of existing programs and of future expansion.
- 2) Recruitment of staff should be sought not only from present sources but also from sources not now being considered, such as persons on social benefits programs.



3) Short intensive training programs and periodic refresher sessions for personnel involved in the delivery of support services should be established which will meet the following criteria:

- i) Local programs should reflect local needs and program content should be re-evaluated yearly.
- ii) The physically handicapped should provide input into the designing, content, and execution of such programs.
- iii) Programs should be uniformly available on province-wide basis.
- iv) Existing training programs should emphasize more fully the physical and emotional needs of the physically handicapped.

#### Issue Six

**Present forms of institutional care are unsuitable in many ways, to meet the needs of the physically handicapped.**

When a physically handicapped person is obliged because of a lack of alternatives in accommodation or support services, to enter a nursing home, a home for the aged, or a chronic care hospital, the goals of rehabilitation programs are negated. These institutions are staffed and designed with the aim of providing largely custodial care — most residents are aged (over 80 on the average) and are moving toward a state of greater dependency. This is in contradiction to the goal of rehabilitation programs which should assist the individual's movement to a state of greater independence.

Secondly, the young physically handicapped person in one of these institutions lacks the company of his peer group, which causes a resultant lack of personal growth and social awareness. This problem is further aggravated by the fact that the resident is to some extent isolated from the community by such things as restricted visiting hours, the lack of suitable transportation, and limited vacation leave. Finally, efforts to promote education, training, and ultimately employment are not enhanced in this setting.

Further retarding the individual's opportunities for personal growth are the restrictive rules of many institutions combined with certain rigidities in designing and staffing patterns. While these are necessary because of the size of these institutions and the nature of the population which they serve, they are in many ways detrimental to the growth of the individual.

Finally institutions provide what is, for many physically handicapped people, an unnecessarily high level of medical care. The provision of many of the services required by physically handicapped people does not require medical staff. For example, one does not have to be a registered nurse to cut

up meat for a physically handicapped person. To have highly paid medical staff performing tasks for which medical skills are not required is clearly neither economical nor rational.

#### Recommendations

- 1) Within existing institutions, programs should be created which promote the independence of the individual.
- 2) Staff should be trained to work with residents with the goal of increasing the independence of each physically handicapped person.
- 3) Through the formation of a resident's council, the physically handicapped should have a voice in the planning of activities and programs. If this recommendation cannot be implemented because residents are for some reason incapable of forming such a body, it is recommended that a person be appointed to liaise with the proper authorities (including the Board of Directors) with the requests and grievances of residents.
- 4) Specialized areas for the physically handicapped should be provided within existing institutions, and provision should be made for increased personal space.
- 5) Some of the funds presently expended on institutional care for the physically handicapped should be re-directed to create and staff homes for the physically handicapped person who cannot live independently.



## **Appendix 1**

### **Legislation on Residential Services in Ontario**

1. Public Hospitals Act
2. Private Hospitals Act
3. Health Disciplines Act
4. Nursing Homes Act
5. Public Health Act
6. Health Insurance Act
7. Homes for the Aged and Rest Homes Act
8. Charitable Institutions Act
9. Elderly Persons Centres Act
10. Homes for Special Care Act
11. Homes for Retarded Persons Act
12. Development Services Act, 1974
13. Family Benefits Act
14. GAINS
15. Mental Health Act
16. Children's Mental Health Centres Act
17. Children's Institutions Act
18. Child Welfare Act
19. Children's Boarding Homes Act
20. Training Schools Act
21. Education Act
22. Provincial Courts Act
23. Prison and Reformatories Act
24. Ministry of Correctional Services Act
25. General Welfare Assistance Act

Also: Federal Juvenile Delinquents Act and  
individual Ministry acts

## Appendix 2

There are a number of residences in Canada offering accommodation services of the type mentioned in the accompanying report. Listed below are some examples of accommodation projects which offer living styles part way along a continuum which has at one end, total independent living in the community and at the other end, total care in an institution. These living styles may range from group home living to integrated apartment living.

Further information on any of these residences may be obtained from the addresses listed below:

- 1) The Administrator,  
1010 Sinclair Street,  
WINNIPEG, Manitoba
- 2) The Administrator, Cheshire Home Peel,  
361 Queen Street,  
STREETSVILLE, Ontario
- 3) The Co-ordinator, Clarendon House,  
21a Vaughan Road,  
TORONTO, ONTARIO
- 4) The Administrator, Cheshire Home Oshawa,  
829 Simcoe Street,  
OSHAWA, Ontario
- 5) The Administrator, Cheshire Home Quinte,  
246 John Street,  
BELLEVILLE, Ontario
- 6) The Resident Manager, C.O.R.D.I. House,  
1604 Pullen Avenue,  
OTTAWA, Ontario
- 7) The Administrator, McLeod House  
11 Lowther Avenue,  
TORONTO, Ontario
- 8) The Co-ordinator, Thunder Bay Project,  
Handicapped Action Group Incorporated  
P.O. Box 2952,  
THUNDER BAY "P", Ontario
- 9) Co-ordinator, Integrated Housing,  
P.O. Box 686,  
Place Bonaventure,  
MONTREAL, Quebec

## Appendix 3

### PROBLEMS IN THE PRESENT FUNDING OF GROUP HOMES UNDER THE CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS ACT.

Presently a non-profit corporation obtains a 100% C.M.H.C. loan for a capital project. Debt retirement provisions and capital costs are approved at 80% under the Charitable Institutions Act.

Residents on the GAINS program contribute GAINS funds at 5.45 per day. The resident contribution thus covers more than 20% of the combined operating and debt retirement costs **provided that** operating costs are below the 13.50 per diem ceiling on operating costs.

This system presents certain problems for the operators of group homes which are funded thus. Among these are the following:

- 1) The present per diem ceiling (13.50) does not cover the costs of a more severely handicapped resident who, while requiring a number of care services, may not be eligible for the extended care level of funding.
- 2) The present system of funding is primarily oriented to group homes with a concentration of handicapped persons because the mechanics of funding part of a building under present legislation are rather complex. Thus the need for facilities which would integrate handicapped persons with non-handicapped persons is not addressed.
- 3) The individual is not instrumental in purchasing his own services but is "funded" or "cared for" under this legislation.
- 4) All the individual's GAINS funds are removed from him with the exception of a travel and comfort allowance. This leaves him insufficient funds to cover other costs (eg. extraordinary costs arising from his handicap).
- 5) If operating costs exceed 13.50 per day, the non-profit corporation must raise charitable funds on an on-going basis to make up the difference. Thus the resident may be dependent on the goodwill of the community for part of the funding of his basic needs.
- 6) No incentive is provided for the handicapped adult to earn partial or full wages as the individual's earnings, in toto, must be directed to the cost of his care up to the full per diem rate.
- 7) It is difficult to attract and keep qualified staff in a situation where funding is limited to such a low per diem ceiling.



# Appendix 4

## Alternative Three — The Care Package and the Ministry of Housing

### Proposal

A Non-Profit Corporation obtains C.M.H.C. loans to purchase property.

The Ministry of Housing provides further capital contribution.

The Ministry of Housing covers all housing costs as a rent supplement on a rent-geared-to-income basis. Housing costs include utilities, taxes, property repair and maintenance and insurance.

The local municipality contributes 7½% of the rent supplement subsidy, a condition of Ministry of Housing subsidy.

Residents pay for their housing costs on the rent-geared-to-income basis under the Ministry of Housing.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services pays for the care costs which are the staffing costs necessary to enable the handicapped adults to function in the residence.

In group living, the resident pays to the Corporation for shared costs — food and household supplies, linen, toilet supplies, furniture replacement.

The resident pays all his other costs himself such as clothing, phone, transportation, dental, recreation, entertainment, personal needs related to grooming and hygiene.

In individual self-sufficient units, non-communal, the resident pays all the costs himself over and above the rent which goes to the Corporation.

Handicapped adults generating income would pay the same amount for their costs as do those on GAINS with the exception that as earnings increase, rent payments would increase.

Control on care costs is through annual corporation budget approvals through the Ministry of Community and Social Services Director of Budgets, Agency Review.

Operating advances would be necessary for the care package on the basis of an agreement so that the Non-Profit Corporation can pay its bills until it recovers Ministry subsidy.

### Action Required

#### (a) Interim Immediate

The Ministry of Community and Social Services makes an agreement with the Non-Profit Corporation to provide the care costs under

The Ministry of Community and Social Services Act.

No Act or Regulation changes required at this time.

#### (b) Medium Range

Bringing of these agreements and this kind of funding under the new proposals for composite Act relating to all the residential programs within the Ministry of Community and Social Services when such an Act has been developed.

- (c) Agreement with the Ministry of Housing on definition of housing costs and care costs.
- (d) Agreement with the Ministry of Housing on a joint approach to applications of Non-Profit Corporations for funding.
- (e) Agreement with the Ministry of Housing on a means of determining resident income and changes in income.
- (f) Agreement with the Ministry of Housing on admission criteria guidelines to houses.
- (g) Interpretation to participating municipalities of program objectives.

### Advantages

- (a) Integration of handicapped adults in need of care in non-handicapped buildings is achievable — a most significant new opportunity for moderately and severely handicapped adults.
- (b) The handicapped adult controls where and how much of his income goes to his specific needs. The institution does not “care for him” in the dependency creating sense.
- (c) By the Ministry of Community and Social Services assuming the care costs, the handicapped adult has the same possibility for suitable accommodation on the same condition as the non-handicapped adult who does not have to assume care costs.
- (d) By elimination of community funding for operating and capital costs, the handicapped person is not cast into the dependent role — dependent and waiting on the charity organization to espouse his needs. The handicapped adults now assume a controlling and managing role in the development of such facilities rather than being confined to the recipient role.
- (e) With the participation of the Ministry of Housing, the problem is perceived as a “housing” problem rather than “an institutional” problem. The care element comes in as a

supportive feature to the housing, not as a dominating feature as can be the case in "institutional facilities".

- (f) With the Ministry of Housing subsidizing the resident's housing cost, the individual does not pay more than 25% of his income for accommodation and the GAINS adult may be paying 18% of his income.

This option places the handicapped resident on a par with the opportunities for low-income residents of other Ministry of Housing subsidized housing projects. He is treated as a low-income person, not as a class separate to whom housing provisions do not apply.

Unwarranted sums of his income going to housing may be re-shifted to better meet his other needs.

- (g) Moreover, the Ministry of Housing program is a rent-geared-to-income program. As the resident increases his income he is required to pay greater rent. His rent payments are still proportional to his income.

Under The Charitable Institutions Act alternative, all income that the resident generates must be directed to the cost of his care. Under the new proposals, the incentive factor is retained to develop productive capacity.

- (h) The housing component costs presently paid under The Charitable Institutions Act are freed up for a much more extensive coverage of handicapped adults through care costs. Housing components are carried by the appropriate Housing Ministry and the social care costs by the appropriate Social Ministry.
- (i) The Ministry is able to meet the care costs of the more severely handicapped adult and at the same time to offset the higher costs of Chronic Care Hospitals for individuals who have been placed there through lack of suitable alternatives.
- (j) Special accommodation for the handicapped can proceed within Provincial time objectives, not dependent on the long process of community fund-raising.
- (k) The above package meets most of the Ministry of Housing and C.M.H.C. objectives to get more housing on the market for low-income groups. Many of the handicapped fall into this category by virtue of their disability.
- (l) The above program can stretch to include the employable handicapped person requiring care by his paying actual rental cost.

- (m) The local municipality, while making a minimal financial contribution to a very small-scale project, participates in the determination of housing for handicapped adults in its area. The municipality's contribution amounts to 1% of the total annual cost of the project.

- (n) The net financial effect under the care package proposals is that while the Ministry picks up 100% of the care package without resident contribution, the overall cost to the Ministry of Community and Social Services as compared with Alternative One of The Charitable Institutions Act involves a **decreased** cost to the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

The debt retirement costs picked up under The Charitable Institutions Act at 80% are now assumed by the Ministry of Housing.

- (o) The net financial effect to the GAINS resident is that, after paying his share of the rent and the costs common to living together, his personal available income for his other needs under GAINS is increased in the range of 16% to 31% relative to his charges under the present Charitable Institutions Act.
- (p) While there are greater costs to the Ministry of Housing in subsidizing staff space and communal space, from the overall provincial point of view, it is a shift in capital costs from one Ministry of the Province to another and not an overall increase in cost.

#### Disadvantages

- (a) The approval process will be more complex with two provincial Ministries and a local municipality involved than with one Ministry under The Charitable Institutions Act.
- (b) Rent supplement implementation by the Ministry of Housing is contingent upon C.M.H.C. cost sharing in rent supplement. Since C.M.H.C.'s announcement of the program in March 1974, they have been resisting sharing in rent supplementing all units in a building although there may be some flexibility in smaller size residences.













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# Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped



## Second Annual Report



*Helping to take Jeffrey off the sidelines*

Cover:

## Helping to take Jeffrey off the sidelines

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Jeff spends a great deal of his time 'on the sidelines' while his teen-aged friends enjoy themselves at what, until last year, was his favourite pastime.

Being unable to participate in what might be considered the normal activities of boyhood is something that Jeffrey will reluctantly accept. Much more difficult to accept however will be his inability to participate as an equal as he reaches adulthood and is confronted with the many barriers to services and facilities. Maintaining a lifestyle with any degree of normalcy will not be easy.

The efforts of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped, in the areas of building access, transportation, employment and accommodation, will go far toward making life easier for all members of that segment of the population who are physically handicapped. Working cooperatively with the community and the provincial government, the Council is helping to bring about changes in attitude, policy and legislation.

We recognize that much remains to be done — that the Jeffreys of this world can aspire to their potential — and will continue to strive for the integration of persons with physical handicaps into the mainstream of society, wherever reasonably possible. While Jeff perhaps won't be able to compete with his able-bodied peers in an organized game of soccer, we hope that through our efforts and achievements Jeffrey — and handicapped persons of all ages — will at least have the chance of competing for the essentials in life, which for too long were out of their reach.

A tragic accident put Jeff on the sidelines. An even greater tragedy would be to leave him there.

**Second Annual Report of the  
Ontario Advisory Council  
on the Physically Handicapped  
for the twelve-month period  
ending March 31, 1977**



Further copies of this report may be obtained at:  
The Ontario Government Bookstore  
880 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario  
or by writing to:  
Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped  
3rd floor, 801 Bay Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1Z1





Honourable Margaret Birch  
Provincial Secretary for  
Social Development



Edward A. Dunlop  
Chairman  
February 1975-February 1977



Andrew C. Clarke  
Chairman  
February 1977-

## Organization and aims of the Council

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The Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped was established on February 5, 1975 by an Order-in-Council approved by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. The Council consists of a Chairman and not more than 20 other members who are drawn from across the province. Over half of the members are physically handicapped and all have had experience with agencies or organizations serving the needs of the handicapped.

The mandate of the Council is to advise the Government of Ontario through the Provincial Secretary for Social Development on matters pertaining to the well-being of physically handicapped persons. Its aims include the following:

- (a) to review present government policies and programs affecting the physically handicapped in the areas of education, employment, rehabilitation, income maintenance, health services, housing, transportation, recreation etc.
- (b) to make recommendations to the Ontario Government with the object of improving policies and programs affecting the physically handicapped
- (c) to promote the opportunities for the physically handicapped to create and participate in self-help programs so that each handicapped person may determine to the maximum his own lifestyle.

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## Letter from the Chairman

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The Honourable Margaret Birch, M.P.P.  
Provincial Secretary for Social Development

Dear Madam Minister:

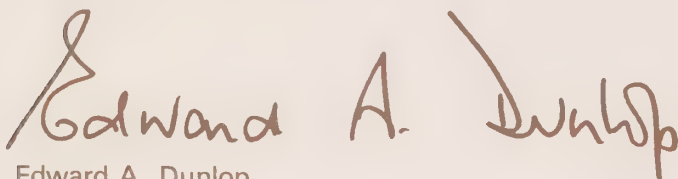
It is a pleasure to submit the second annual report of the Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped covering its activities for the 12 months ended March 31, 1977.

On the expiration of my term on February 4 I was succeeded as Chairman by Andrew C. Clarke. I wish him every success in this office, and I am sure that he will enjoy the same splendid support which members of the Council afforded me.

In carrying out its terms of reference and in seeking to make practicable recommendations to you and your colleagues in government towards the improved welfare of the disabled, the Council faces immense challenges. In its first two years, and having regard for the Council's extremely limited resources, I believe it has made a reasonable beginning.

I should like to express my appreciation to Gerald F. Clarke, the Council's Executive Officer, and to Norman D. Lawson, his Administrative Assistant, not only for their help in the preparation of this report but also for their many services to the Council, its members and its objects.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Edward A. Dunlop". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E' and a stylized 'D'.

Edward A. Dunlop  
Chairman  
February 1975 - February 1977



## Incoming Chairman's remarks

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Having served as a member of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped for nearly two years, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Edward Dunlop, I have an appreciation of how useful and effective the Council can be in advising our Minister, the Honourable Margaret Birch, on matters having to do with the physically handicapped, thereby indirectly bringing about improvements of various kinds for the physically handicapped citizens of this province.

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. Dunlop, Council developed a reputation for making carefully thought through and reasonable recommendations to our Minister. Personally, I have great respect for Mr. Dunlop and deeply regret that pressure of other work has caused him to resign the Chairmanship of this Council. I also respect the ability and the sincerity of our Minister and am pleased and honoured to have been asked to assume the Chairmanship of this important Council.

It is my hope that we will be able to maintain the reputation for making well thought out and reasonable recommendations which Council established under Mr. Dunlop's guidance. At the same time, as a Council, we want to do the job for which we were formed. On behalf of the physically handicapped we want to be alert to advise government through Mrs. Birch, promptly as well as properly, on matters that affect the lives of the physically handicapped, including their reasonable needs and aspirations. In this task I have already been encouraged by the gracious reception and willing cooperation of the members of Council, who together with the Executive Officer and his staff do the hard work necessary to make Council effective.



Andrew C. Clarke  
Chairman  
February 1977 -

# Membership of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped

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Andrew C. Clarke, Chairman	Willowdale	Charles McCormack (resigned)	Fort Frances
Gerald W. Cronin	Sudbury	Margaret McLeod	Toronto
Walter H. Davis	Willowdale	Clare R. Millar	Cambridge
Margaret Elliott (retired)	London	William J. Orr	St. Catharines
Albin T. Jousse	Toronto	Bluebell Planck	Oakville
John Kellerman	Toronto	J. Stobo Prichard (resigned)	Willowdale
Stewart E. Kingstone	St. Catharines	Heather Rankin	Willowdale
David G. Koivisto	Thunder Bay	Robert L. Rumball	Caledon
John Lane (resigned)	Ottawa	Mary Sayons	Ottawa
Nellie Lemon	Cochenour	Sally Sullivan (resigned)	Toronto
Jack W. Longman	Windsor	William Watson	Bradford
Douglas F. Manuel	Oshawa	Marian Webb	Kingston
Catherine McBride (retired)	St. Catharines	John Yorke	West Hill

The following members served on Ad Hoc Committees as noted during the year ending March 31, 1977:

**ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

Jack Longman — Chairman  
John Kellerman  
David Koivisto  
John Lane  
Margaret McLeod  
Bluebell Planck

**BUILDING STANDARDS**

Clare Millar — Chairman  
Gerald Cronin  
David Koivisto  
Mary Sayons

*Representatives to committee:*

Peter Ferguson  
E.S. Martin Construction Ltd.  
Hart Frank, M.R.A.I.C.  
Adviser, Building Code Branch  
Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

Andrew C. Clarke — Chairman  
Stewart Kingstone

**INCOME MAINTENANCE**

Dr. Stobo Prichard — Chairman  
Margaret Elliott  
Douglas Manuel  
Charles McCormack  
Clare Millar  
Robert Rumball  
John Yorke

**PUBLICITY**

Jack Longman — Chairman  
Catherine McBride  
Bluebell Planck  
Mary Sayons

**THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN**

Sally Sullivan — Chairman  
Margaret McLeod  
Heather Rankin  
Robert Rumball

**TRANSPORTATION**

Andrew C. Clarke — Chairman  
Margaret Elliott  
John Lane

# Executive Officer's report

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The Provincial Secretary for Social Development recognized that, in attempting to design programs to better serve the needs of the large number of physically handicapped individuals throughout the province, the government could be assisted immeasurably by the handicapped themselves. Thus the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped was formed, with its membership broadly representing disability groups and geographical locations.

The Council's second year has been rewarding in many ways. Overall, the support and cooperation of many local, provincial and national organizations have enabled the Council to effectively carry out its mandate of advising the Ontario Government on matters pertaining to the well-being of physically handicapped persons, as well as prepare reports and recommendations toward developing and creating opportunities for a more satisfactory lifestyle.

Recommendations by Council to government, presented through the Honourable Margaret Birch, Provincial Secretary for Social Development, have achieved to a significant degree their intent. The Council, however, will not be content to rest with its achievements and the diligent efforts of the ad hoc committees in wrestling through issues of concern to the handicapped will prepare Council for further reports and recommendations and assure our 'constituents' that government does work for the people.

The Council's second year also saw a change in its make-up. Half a dozen members either retired upon completing their terms or resigned for personal or business reasons. To those former members may I offer sincere thanks for their devotion and for the dedication to the many tasks and challenges. To the new Council members, most of whom are, at the time of this writing, entrenched in deliberations at the ad hoc committee level, welcome. We are very pleased to have had such a select group of concerned citizens allowing their names to stand for appointment. The backgrounds and particular expertise of the new members can only add to the strength of the Council.

The most significant change in the make-up of the Advisory Council came with the retirement of Chairman Edward Dunlop upon completion of his two-year term. Mr. Dunlop, a former MPP and Member of the Cabinet, undertook the chairmanship of the Advisory Council at the

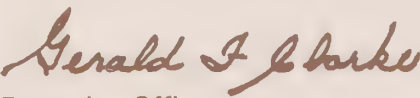
request of Mrs. Birch and Premier William Davis. It was understood at the outset that business interests would not allow that he continue beyond the two years. Edward Dunlop brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the post, and his stature helped to establish a high standard for the Council — a standard which members strive to maintain throughout any and all endeavours.

Andrew C. Clarke was the obvious choice as Chairman, having served as Acting Chairman and as Chairman of the ad hoc committees on transportation and human rights. Andy's reputation for fairness is one that is admired by his many associates and Council members were unanimous in their show of appreciation when his appointment was confirmed.

The tremendous volume of telephone calls and letters received daily might be considered a fair measure of the Council's success. Enquiries regarding accessible facilities, hiring the handicapped and pension-related matters are numerous, as it seems more and more people see the Council's role as that of ombudsman for the physically handicapped and agencies choose to view it as a clearing house.

This surge in popularity has, above all else, greatly increased the work load. That we might bring some semblance of order to what was quickly becoming a chaotic situation, the Council's staff was increased. Norman Lawson was recently employed, on a part-time basis, as the Council's Administrative Assistant. Norm's background of information, publicity and public education experience with the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled and the Ontario Society for Crippled Children has proven to be a definite asset and we would hope to be able to employ him full time in the not-too-distant future.

Confident under Andrew Clarke's capable leadership, the Council steps into its third year — a year that we expect will see further major achievements toward equalization of opportunities and lifestyles for the physically handicapped.



Executive Officer





# Activities of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped, April 1976-March 1977

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In its second year of operation, the Council discussed, studied and made recommendations on many issues affecting the physically handicapped — accommodation and support services, income maintenance, transportation, assistive devices and human rights are some of the examples. Through the Honourable Margaret Birch, Provincial Secretary for Social Development, the Council continued and strengthened its role of advising the Government of Ontario on policies and programs concerning the physically handicapped. The Council also strengthened its relationships with the various ministries involved in the design and delivery of such programs.

When the Council has felt it was necessary to study some of its concerns in greater depth, it has appointed Ad Hoc Committees to perform that task. For example, in its first year, the Council struck committees on Transportation, Accommodation and Support Services, Income Maintenance and the Special Needs of Physically Handicapped Children. The last two of these were active in the past year while the others carefully monitored the government's response to their recommendations. The reports that follow contain details of the ongoing efforts of these committees, as well as three others that were appointed in the 1976-77 year of operation — Building Standards, Human Rights and Publicity.

Apart from the subjects covered in depth by its committees, the Council studied and made recommendations on a wide range of concerns within its sphere of interest. These activities are summarized in this report.

## Transportation

*"The Council's recommendations concerning transportation policy for the disabled have assisted our discussions in the development and introduction of this new program."*

That was the way Mrs. Birch concluded her remarks on announcing, jointly with the Minister of Transportation and Communications, James Snow, the transportation pilot projects for the physically disabled in Chatham, Ottawa, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie and Metro Toronto on September 29, 1976. The text of Mrs. Birch's announcement appears as Appendix 1 in this report.

The guidelines for the operation of these five pilot projects followed closely the recommendations of the Advisory Council's report, 'Urban

Transportation for the Physically Handicapped,' which was presented to Mrs. Birch in July 1975. The province's involvement in the projects will go on for two years, enabling the government to determine the need and establish funding criteria for this type of service in municipalities across Ontario.

In its report, the Council announced it intended to make recommendations relating to financial assistance to physically handicapped persons for the private purchase of personal transportation. This item is still under consideration by the Ad Hoc Committee on Transportation and a report is expected from it later in 1977.

## Accommodation and support services

On May 27, 1976, members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Accommodation and Support Services for the Severely Physically Handicapped met with Mrs. Birch and Dr. Douglas T. Wright, Deputy Provincial Secretary for Social Development. The purpose of the meeting was for the Committee to officially present and discuss the Council's Report on Integration, Independence and Inter-Dependence for the Physically Handicapped in Ontario — a Policy Focus for the Province. The report was well received and several pertinent questions were directed to the Committee, resulting in an excellent dialogue. This report appeared as an appendix to the Council's first annual report.

By the end of the year, however, the Committee Chairman was disappointed at the apparent lack of progress in acting upon the recommendations of the report and expressed his concern to the Council Chairman. Subsequently, Mrs. Birch had the report brought back to the Cabinet Committee on Social Development, which appointed an interministerial working group charged with the responsibility of reviewing the recommendations of the report and advising on the feasibility and methods of implementation. David Pitt, Rehabilitation Branch, Ministry of Community and Social Services, was named Chairman of the working committee, with representatives from the Management Board of Cabinet, the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Labour, as well as from the line ministries within the Social Development field. As recommended by Council, the working group will seek the input and advice of members of the Council in developing policy proposals.

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Prior to the above-mentioned report, the Council had made recommendations to the Honourable Margaret Birch that support services be provided to physically handicapped persons in non-institutional settings in order to increase the opportunities of the handicapped for independent living. In response, early in April the Minister of Community and Social Services approved four corporations for three years of funding as demonstration projects providing support services for handicapped residents in apartment and group living situations. The projects comprise fully integrated apartment living for 13 handicapped adults in Ottawa; a Toronto apartment building where an entire floor has been leased to provide combined independent and group living accommodation for 11 handicapped adults; a 32-bed complex of townhouses accommodating families in Thunder Bay; and a 25-bed apartment living facility for handicapped adults in Windsor. The provincial government expects to learn from these experiments the degree of handicap of the persons who can live in this housing, the kind of staffing support required, the costs involved and the need for this type of accommodation.

The Council was encouraged by the government's action in setting up the working group and demonstration projects towards determining provincial policy on the accommodation and support services' needs of the physically handicapped, a policy which it is hoped will lead to their greater independence.

A further recommendation was made by the Council through Mrs. Birch, urging that her colleague, the Honourable John Rhodes, establish a unit within the Ministry of Housing to deal specifically with the needs of the physically handicapped for housing and related services. Such a coordinating unit has become imperative, the Council said, as programs, administered by a number of branches and divisions, affect the lives of this group. The Council feels that this unit should be directly responsible to the Minister and that all branches and divisions within the Ministry should be obligated to deal through such a unit. The recommendation also indicated the importance of an on-going liaison between the Council and the coordinating unit.

Mrs. Birch responded quickly and presented the recommendation to Mr. Rhodes for his consideration. However, before any response was received from him, the Council heard a presentation from representatives of the Community Development Department, Ontario

March of Dimes, pertaining to the lack of available information from the Community Renewal Branch with regard to the Ontario Home Renewal Program (OHRP). This program, amended in 1976 following a recommendation from the Advisory Council, makes provision for improvements to the residences of physically handicapped persons, who otherwise qualify.

The Chairman wrote to Mrs. Birch advising her that "Council members were in agreement with the Community Development experts as to the benefits this program has to offer to the physically handicapped and support their views on the need to make its availability more broadly known to the handicapped community. During the discussion on OHRP, it also became apparent that the individuals responsible for delivery of the program — at the municipal level — were not totally aware as to how it might be applied to the residences of physically handicapped persons. There is a definite need for educational programs in this area. An indication of how effectual the program is at serving the needs can only be given if records are kept of all applications and their responses. This is not the present case." The letter concludes: "The Council recognizes these three concerns as being the obvious responsibility of the proposed 'unit' and would again urge that the importance of such a unit, to coordinate the Ministry's activities as they affect the lifestyles of the physically handicapped, be brought to the attention of Mr. Rhodes."

Although the Council did not officially send participants to the National Conference on Housing and Support Services for the Physically Handicapped in Edmonton in December 1976, its interests were well represented in the persons of Council members Bluebell Planck, Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada (Ontario Division) and Mary Sayons, United Handicapped Groups of Ontario. When they reported back to Council, it was encouraging to hear that considerable interest had been shown by those attending the Conference in the demonstration projects initiated by the Government of Ontario in response, to a degree, to recommendations made by the Council.

The Ministry of Housing recognizes that some of its tenants require modifications to the standard type of accommodation offered by the Ontario Housing Corporation and has initiated a study of these needs. Early in March 1977, the Council invited Mrs. Kim Harris, a consultant with the Community Relations Branch of OHC who is involved in research of problems affecting tenants, to talk about their study, then in



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progress. While OHC has the responsibility to provide the type of housing required, it had no policy regarding the special needs of the handicapped and no uniformity in its decision-making process. Mrs. Harris acknowledged the cooperation of the Advisory Council in the past and invited its input to the study. She wants it to reflect accurately the needs of the handicapped. The Council will receive a copy of the study when it is completed.

## Income maintenance

The Ad Hoc Committee on Income Maintenance (formed in August 1975) continued, throughout the year under review, its study of income maintenance programs which affect the physically disabled. With the help of two law students, Erik Fish at the University of Toronto and Larry Truesdell at Osgoode Hall, a background paper was prepared under the supervision of Professors Michael J. Trebilcock, Sam Rea and J. Robert S. Prichard of the Law and Economics Program of the Faculty of Law of the University of Toronto. A report containing 12 recommendations was produced and it appears herein as Appendix 2.

In 1976, the Council had made strong recommendations to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development that assistive devices should be included as benefits under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan. The Council felt so strongly about this proposed provision that it has been incorporated as Recommendation No. 12 in the Income Maintenance Report.

### *Method of reaching recommendations*

1. Certain policy objectives were selected as being of paramount importance to the physically disabled.
2. Programs were examined to determine whether or not their provisions achieve these policy objectives.
3. Recommendations for changes in program provisions are made in cases where these provisions fall short of meeting the policy objectives selected by the Council.

The recommendations, therefore, are intended to improve the present system whereby income maintenance payments and benefits-in-kind are provided to physically handicapped persons. They do not constitute an attempt to design a new system to perform this function. While the Council is acutely aware of the need for a new

system which would combine features of presently existing programs into a coherent whole, it is not at this point prepared to make recommendations of this magnitude. The objective of the Income Maintenance Report is to recommend changes which would improve the programs under which benefits are now provided until such time as a new system is designed. The Council hopes, within the next year, to formulate recommendations regarding new systems of providing income maintenance for the physically disabled but, in the meantime, the reported recommendations are intended to alleviate some of the problems of the system presently in effect.

The Council's Report and Recommendations on Income Maintenance for the Physically Handicapped were formally presented to Mrs. Birch in March 1977 and they were well received. She said she would certainly do her best to persuade her Cabinet colleagues to agree with such "utterly reasonable recommendations, which could also apply to other than the physically handicapped — the aged, single parents, etc."

The Council expects the role of the Ad Hoc Committee on Income Maintenance to be a continuing one, as it considers more radical concepts, including negative income tax provisions. To quote the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. J. Stobo Prichard: "Income maintenance is not a static affair . . . it moves with the years."

## The special needs of physically handicapped children

Although the concerns of the Council relating to this subject have been published before, for the sake of a better understanding we are reiterating them in this report:

- (a) Physically handicapped children should be integrated with their non-handicapped peers in as many areas of daily living as possible. Examples of such activities are the acquisition of an education and the enjoyment of recreational and social activities.
- (b) Except where appropriate alternative public education services are provided (e.g. the Ontario Schools for the Deaf and Blind) the services of the public school system should be made available, without exception, to the physically handicapped child.

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- (c) Special services, when necessary, should be provided to children with physical handicaps so that their opportunities to reach a maximum level of independence at adulthood may be equalized with those of their non-handicapped peers.

An Ad Hoc Committee was struck in November 1975 to investigate and report on these issues. Early in its meetings, the Committee decided that its first priority was education in all its aspects. A list of questions to be directed to the Ministry of Education was compiled, covering such areas as structural changes in existing facilities to accommodate the physically handicapped, the right of the physically handicapped student to attend his or her local school, teacher training in the special needs of exceptional students, special provision for the physically handicapped child to enter school at the age of two (as in the case of deaf children), the implementation of mandatory special education, etc. The last two concerns named were identified as priorities by both a representative of the Ministry of Education and of the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre. Further dialogue between the Committee and the Ministry was anticipated before any recommendations were reached.

*(Editor's note: The Chairman and Executive Officer of the Council met with the Honourable Thomas Wells, Minister of Education, and he welcomed their proposal that his advisory body on special education should have the benefit of direct representation by physically handicapped persons. Subsequently, two members of the Advisory Council were appointed to serve.)*

The Council was given the opportunity by the Ministry of Health to have input to the Report of the Task Force on the Development of a Policy Paper on the Future of Services for Physically Handicapped Children. The Ad Hoc Committee was given the task of reviewing the working document and its comments were passed on in a letter to the Ministry of Health by the Council Chairman. In summary, the Council agreed with the philosophies and intent of the report, while making specific suggestions regarding more input from those individuals actually receiving services and their parents, the provision of support services for parents of handicapped children with an income-tested user charge to be levied and the provision of assistive devices free of charge to handicapped persons of all ages. The Council also pointed out that the recommendation of the Task Force that a body be established to coordinate policy making and program delivery on behalf of handicapped children was similar to one made by

Council in its position paper on 'Accommodation and Support Services for the Severely Physically Handicapped' in which the formation of a single body to perform this function for all handicapped persons is recommended.

The Ad Hoc Committee prepared a questionnaire to elicit information from parent groups across Ontario pertaining to the need and concerns of physically handicapped children in the realm of education. Specific questions were directed to what, from consultations with numerous professionals responsible for delivering services to handicapped children, were recurring areas of concern: availability of information about services; exclusion of handicapped children from the public school system; lack of communication between parents and educators; teacher training; transportation and counselling services.

The work of the Committee was temporarily interrupted with the resignation of its chairman, Mrs. Sally Sullivan, but its study of the Special Needs of Physically Handicapped Children will be continued later in 1977.

## Human rights

Following considerable discussion in Council meetings to determine whether a brief should be submitted to the Ontario Human Rights Commission to recommend the inclusion of 'physically handicapped' in the Ontario Human Rights Code, at its May 1976 meeting the Council decided to prepare such a brief. In addition, the brief would make recommendations for further amendments to the Code in relation to the human rights of physically handicapped persons. An Ad Hoc Committee was then formed to prepare the brief for the Council's consideration and approval before submission to the Ontario Human Rights Commission at a public hearing on September 9, 1976 (see Appendix 3).

The brief was well received by the Commission, with its members asking questions regarding income security, the comparative prices of wheelchairs in different communities, the onus of proof and the difficulty of determining whether discrimination has occurred on the basis of physical disability, e.g. in employment situations.

The Council therefore decided to furnish the Commission with additional information about the status of the physically handicapped found in the Council's annual report and documents prepared by its income maintenance and other ad hoc committees. It also decided to comment on the



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need to expand the areas of discrimination being considered for all categories, such as credit and insurance. These extensions to its original recommendations were conveyed in a letter from the Council Chairman to Dr. Bruce McLeod, Chairman of the Human Rights Code Review Committee, who in acknowledgment commented favourably on the Council's brief. Members were also asked by the Council Chairman to forward comments directly to the Code Review Committee on a definition of physical disability circulated by that Committee.

*(Editor's note: As this report was being written, the Human Rights Code Review Committee under Dr. Bruce McLeod had just released its report 'Life Together: A Report on Human Rights in Ontario.' The report recommends — "that physical disability be included in the proposed new Code as a grounds on which discrimination is prohibited." The report goes further to make nine recommendations embracing the areas of accessibility, employment, transportation, education, assistive devices and accommodation. In its report, the Code Review Committee acknowledges the brief submitted by the Advisory Council and offers particular acknowledgment of "much helpful assistance" from the Council's Executive Officer.)*

The Canadian Bill of Rights and Canadian Human Rights Act (Bill C-25) were discussed at the Council's final meeting of the 1976-77 year and it was noted that the proposed legislation referred to the physically handicapped only in matters related to employment. The Council decided to study the content of this most important bill in greater depth and subsequently expressed its concerns in letters to the federal government's Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, the Minister of Justice, the Leader of the Government in the Senate and the Chairmen of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs and Health, Welfare and Science Committees of the Senate. Favourable response was received from each with the promise of Council's comments being taken into consideration before final adoption of the bill.

## **Building standards — the Ontario Building Code, Part 5**

In view of the considerable amount of concern expressed to the Council by various organizations of and for the handicapped regarding the ambiguities in, exclusions from and inadequacies of Part 5 of the Ontario Building Code, the

members felt it was advisable to review this section of the Code and recommend amendments to the Building Code Branch of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Mr. Graham Adams, Director of the Branch, had indicated in correspondence with the Council's Executive Officer that it was important for his Branch to continue to obtain as much advice about the Building Code as they can and the Advisory Council could perform a most useful function in their specialized area.

Accordingly, the Council struck an Ad Hoc Committee on Building Standards in March 1977 to deal with necessary amendments to Part 5 of the Ontario Building Code. In addition to Council members serving on the Committee, valuable help from outside the Council is being given by Peter Ferguson, a paraplegic who is a builder and developer. Direct liaison with the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations has been established with Hart Frank, Building Code Adviser and an architect, being named a member of the Ad Hoc Committee. Input is being sought from architects, builders, handicapped groups and individuals.

The Committee is currently examining Part 5, clause by clause, comparing it with other building codes and guides both in Canada and the United States as well as drawing on the expertise and experience of its members and others. A document showing the current regulations, the Committee's suggested changes and the rationale for them, is being prepared for Council's approval and subsequent submission to the Building Code Branch early in the fall of 1977. It is expected that the Branch will issue amendments to the Code annually in the fall.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Building Standards hopes by its continuing efforts to make Part 5 of the Ontario Building Code really work so that most buildings will indeed be accessible to and usable by the physically handicapped.

## **Publicity**

In assessing its position and directions in August 1976, the Council placed considerable emphasis on the need for publicity in order to let the physically handicapped population and the general public know of its existence, mandate and function. In October 1976, an Ad Hoc Committee on Publicity was formed, charged with the responsibility of accomplishing the foregoing.

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The Committee first examined the role of the Council and the value of publicity. It determined that the Council should act as an adviser and advocate rather than an adversary. It felt that publicity would make the general public more aware not only of the Council's work but of the potential of the handicapped to contribute to society. Publicizing the Council and its activities would also help counter the sense of isolation experienced by many handicapped persons.

The Committee then looked at various ways in which effective publicity might be gained. Among the ideas suggested were a pamphlet on the Council's mandate and work, with the object of reaching physically handicapped persons and groups, the general public and decision-makers in the community; programs on TV Ontario and cable TV stations, with both information and entertainment value to the handicapped; public meetings to be held in different regions of the province, providing an opportunity for the Council to explain its function and activities and receive input from the physically handicapped and the public through open discussion and informal briefs; and inviting members of the media to attend Council meetings.

*(Editor's note: Since the end of this report year, the Ad Hoc Committee has: prepared a pamphlet on the Council which will be printed in September 1977; arranged for videotaping of a Council meeting, parts of which will be used as an introduction to talk and phone-in shows on cable TV stations with local Council members participating; arranged a Public Forum to be held in Kingston City Hall in September 1977, which will also be videotaped to provide material for the cable TV programs previously mentioned.)*

The Committee intends to develop a Speakers' Kit which can be used by Council members when asked to participate in talk shows, meetings of handicapped groups, general meetings where information about the needs and concerns of the physically handicapped is being sought, etc. The kit will also help members in dealing with the media — responses to questions regarding the Council's formation and operation, its areas of concern, what it is doing about them and so on.

## Assistive devices

The provision of assistive devices for the physically handicapped has been and continues to be a prime concern of the Council. On May 13, 1976 the Chairman forwarded to the Honourable Margaret Birch the recommendations of the

Council relating to this concern, stating that "the Council believes the implementation of these recommendations would greatly improve delivery of services essential to the disabled, at relatively modest expense." The recommendations are printed at the end of this report as Appendix 4.

Mrs. Birch passed on the recommendations to the then Minister of Health, the Honourable Frank Miller, who responded by indicating there were no plans in the near future to extend OHIP to cover assistive devices, due to insufficient funds. In communicating this information to the Council Mrs. Birch hoped the Government's financial position would allow them to extend the coverage "in the not too distant future" and said the Council's recommendations would certainly be kept in mind when budget priorities were set for the next year. The Council Chairman wrote to Mrs. Birch on August 5, 1976, expressing disappointment at the Minister of Health's response but encouragement from the government's position.

Mr. Miller had also said "assistive devices will continue to be supplied by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, according to need." In his letter, the Chairman made reference to this statement and felt sure that both Mrs. Birch and Mr. Miller were aware of the shortcomings of needs-tested programs in areas such as these. "As a result," he wrote, "all too many people are forced to seek assistance from charitable organizations even for the purchase of a wheelchair. This can hardly be a practice in which the Government takes much pride."

In March 1977, when the Council had heard nothing further on its recommendations, the Chairman brought the matter to Mrs. Birch's attention once more and requested her to discuss it again with the Minister of Health, pointing out "it is a matter which the Advisory Council is extremely concerned about." The Chairman also commented on the provision of assistive devices under the Ministry of Community and Social Services' Vocational Rehabilitation Services program and the General Welfare Assistance Act. Many physically handicapped persons do not qualify under the VRS program and in the case of GWA, financial participation is required on the part of the municipality, at whose discretion assistive devices may or may not be provided. The Chairman also pointed out that the process of assessing need and deciding who qualifies for what, and under what program, may result in delays in the 'treatment — rehabilitation — discharge to the community' progress of those who have become physically handicapped. "At



today's per diem costs of hospitalization," he wrote, "such delays are often more costly to OHIP than the provision of the needed assistive devices would have been."

Mrs. Birch promptly replied, advising the Chairman that she had continually pursued this matter with the Minister of Health during the past year, but the Ministry had not yet been able to implement the Council's recommendations because of financial constraints. However, she had again written to her colleague, the Honourable Dennis Timbrell, bringing the Council's recommendations and concerns to his attention and "I will continue to pursue your request," she assured the Council.

Because of its utmost concern about this issue, in its Income Maintenance Report (see Appendix 2), the Council also included a recommendation, No. 12, that assistive devices should be included as benefits under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan.

Subsequently, Mrs. Birch informed the Council through its Chairman that the Minister of Health would be doing "a complete review of the present situation, taking into account your Council's comments about unnecessary delays in being released from hospital and other programs of the Ministry of Community and Social Services which provide assistive devices. Hopefully we can come to some satisfactory solution in the near future."

As part of its desire to keep informed and up to date on assistive devices in general, the Council invited Wilhelm Sauter of the Department of Rehabilitation Engineering, Ontario Crippled Children's Centre, to make a presentation on mio-electric prosthetic devices. Mr. Sauter explained the principle behind the operation of mio-electric devices by saying that, basically, when anyone wants to contract a muscle a 'signal' is emitted. In the case of an amputee, this 'signal' can be picked up by an electrode and fed into circuitry where it is amplified. Operating the device involves a learning process that becomes second nature after two or three weeks.

During his presentation, Mr. Sauter showed a film about an amputee program in Italy for victims of work-related accidents. Highly sophisticated techniques are being used and research is taking place in the area of sense information.

The film indicated that 350 people were fitted with mio-electric devices in one year. Training in the operation of the devices is given by an occupational therapist specializing in this field.

## **The Balanced Armature Receiver (BAR) and its possible effect on the hearing impaired**

In response to a request in May 1976 from the Steering Committee, Telephone Receivers & the Hearing Impaired, for support in its brief to the Canadian Radio Telecommunications Commission opposing the proposed introduction by Bell Canada of the balanced armature receiver into telephone equipment, the Council decided to examine the situation. According to the Steering Committee, the new receiver would limit the usefulness of telephone equipment for hearing aid users, as well as the profoundly deaf who rely on teletype equipment hooked up to the telephone. Unlike previous receivers the BAR's magnetic field, from which impulses transmit sounds to the hearing aid user, is limited.

In its investigation, which included a meeting convened by the Executive Officer of the Council to bring together representatives of the Steering Committee and Bell Canada as well as other concerned parties, the Council found it would be approximately 20 years until the new receiver completely penetrated the market and it appeared that only a relatively few people using certain older types of hearing aid may be faced with problems. For these people, Bell Canada proposed to leave the existing handset in use at their homes and offices. In addition, a coupler would be available — about the size of a plum — which could be carried on the person and attached as required to any telephone equipped with the new receiver, thereby re-creating the magnetic field. As far as the teletype device is concerned, the older form of handset would be left in place where appropriate.

However, the Steering Committee, while acknowledging they had made some progress in serious negotiations with Bell Canada before the CRTC, still sought — in August 1976 — the following from the Council:

- (a) endorsement of the principle of the right to access to the telephone for the hearing impaired
- (b) support of the efforts of the Committee to reach an understanding with Bell under CRTC auspices, that would ensure the recognition of this right to access
- (c) endorsement of the position of the Steering Committee, as stated in its brief of April 28, 1976, and subsequent submissions to the CRTC.

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In responding by letter to Norman McLeod, Coordinator of the Steering Committee on Telephone Receivers & the Hearing Impaired, the Executive Officer said: "This Council will most certainly support the efforts of the Steering Committee to reach an understanding with Bell Canada under CRTC auspices, which will ensure that the hearing impaired will not be caused any further major inconvenience. We feel certain that through these negotiations this situation will be resolved to the satisfaction of those concerned." Mr. Clarke wrote further that the Advisory Council would not endorse the efforts of any one organization or group acting on behalf of the physically handicapped without a thorough knowledge of the subject matter. In this particular instance, the Council felt it did not have sufficient information on the number of individuals who may actually be affected. In conclusion, Mr. Clarke stated, "this Advisory Council will not stand idly by and allow Bell Canada to disrupt the life style to which these people have become accustomed."

In a subsequent letter from the Steering Committee, addressed to the Honourable Margaret Birch, concern was expressed with the reception afforded them by the Advisory Council. Mrs. Birch replied that the Council seemed to her to have taken a responsible position and it was one that she personally agreed with. "I would like to add," she wrote, "that I greatly admire the thoroughness with which the Council greets all concerns presented to it." She also noted that the Steering Committee in its letter of September 15, 1976, to Bell Canada expected an early and satisfactory resolution. She concluded by saying she believed the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped had a sincere interest in assisting all parties in getting together to seek a resolution to this mutual concern.

Once again, on January 11, 1977, the Steering Committee wrote to Mrs. Birch, specifically raising the importance of human rights to the hearing impaired as well as expressing their extreme dissatisfaction with the Council's position on the introduction of the balanced armature receiver. In her reply, Mrs. Birch said the government recognized there had been many problems in the past with which the hearing impaired have been confronted. Discrimination in the areas of employment, housing, education and access to facilities is a problem to which people with varying disabilities have been subjected in the past. "It is our hope that amendment to the Human Rights Code will be an effective means of setting aside such discriminations," Mrs. Birch

wrote. She was also pleased to note the changes which have taken place in recent years: "Changes in legislation as well as in public attitudes as they affect the physically disabled have been most significant. The efforts of your Steering Committee, the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped and numerous other organizations and agencies working with and on behalf of the physically handicapped have, to a large degree, brought about these changes."

Mrs. Birch continued by saying she was in total agreement with the sensible approach taken by the Advisory Council in relation to the Steering Committee's dealings with Bell Canada regarding the BAR. She also felt the Council's cooperation in bringing together the principals to discuss the issue logically had had a bearing on the phone company's policy (see Editor's note below). "All of us share the same concerns," Mrs. Birch's letter concluded. "I hope that we can work together to seek solutions so that we can help those who look to us for support."

*Editor's note:* On January 11, 1977, Bell Canada wrote to organizations representing the deaf and hard of hearing in Ontario, hospitals, audiologists, schools for the deaf, nursing homes and hearing aid dealers and advised them that, in negotiations with the Steering Committee on Telephone Receivers & the Hearing Impaired, the phone company had agreed to maintain (at no charge) the existing magnetic field on telephones used with a hearing aid at home and/or at the office, in nursing homes, schools for the deaf, etc. This would also apply to teletypewriter users and to all pay phones. A small portable coupler for use with phones equipped with the BAR would be available at a one-time charge of \$5. Bell Canada also advised that it had commissioned Bell-Northern Research Laboratories to study the design of hearing aids to make them more compatible with the acoustic output of the telephone. An insert giving the above information was included with Bell Canada's January/February billing to all customers. The Council expressed its pleasure and appreciation to the President of Bell Canada in a letter from the Chairman acknowledging the telephone company's announcement and hoping that success would crown its efforts in the research referred to.

## **Recreation for the handicapped**

On behalf of the Council, member Bluebell Planck attended a very successful Workshop on Recreation for the Disabled and Handicapped,



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sponsored by the provincial Ministry of Culture and Recreation from May 17-20, 1976. Mrs. Planck reported that the Workshop was "a learning experience — one that showed how important recreation is to all of us, for our physical and mental well-being. As a group and as individuals, we tend to prioritize the important issues of transportation, housing, support services and income maintenance. I cannot deny that these issues are of vital importance but they will take time to study and resolve. In the meantime, recreation, properly supplied, could make life more palatable for people living in inappropriate situations." Many physically handicapped people attended the Workshop and emphasis was placed on the involvement of the physically handicapped in all aspects of recreation, including the planning stages.

One of the conference's concerns was finding out what was needed locally as well as provincially to meet the recreational needs of the handicapped. Two committees developed as a direct result of the Workshop — the Provincial Organizations Committee, made up of representatives from organizations involved in recreation for the handicapped, on which Mrs. Planck sits in dual representation of the Advisory Council and the Multiple Sclerosis Society; and the Provincial Reference Group on Recreation for the Disabled, consisting of representatives from six geographic regions, one representative from the Provincial Organizations Committee, one from the Ontario Recreation Society and two ex-officio members from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation. As the Provincial Reference group directly relates to local programs, there is every likelihood that a physically handicapped person's recreational needs can be met in his/her own area. The Group puts out a newsletter which is broadly distributed.

The Provincial Organizations Committee, in developing an accessibility kit containing various publications with guidelines to building standards (such as Part 5 of the Ontario Building Code) and ways of meeting the recreational needs of the handicapped, requested input from members of the Advisory Council. It is expected the kit will be ready for distribution late in 1977.

Liaison has been established with the National Inter-Agency Recreation Project (sponsored by the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled, the Canadian Mental Health Association, the Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind) through the Director of the Project. The latter is available as a resource person to the Provincial Reference Group, since it

is the only group in Ontario dealing with recreation for the disabled on a provincial level at present.

## **Governmental sponsorship of medically prescribed drugs, medical-surgical supplies, etc. for the physically handicapped on Family Benefits Allowance, GAINS or General Welfare Assistance**

At the suggestion of the Canadian Paraplegic Association and in order to keep itself in touch with the situation regarding physically handicapped people on FBA, GAINS or GWA, the Council discussed the difficulties sometimes encountered by this segment of the population due to the variation in policy of different municipalities with regard to providing the type of assistance noted above. In order to gain the most accurate information, Council invited two representatives from the Ministry of Community and Social Services — Tybor Divinec, Assistant Director, Municipal Welfare Administration Branch and Donald McKee, Provincial Benefits, Section Coordinator for Metropolitan Toronto — to speak about GWA and FBA respectively. In summary, they said there is no limit on the amount of payment for supplementary aids; consideration is given to medically prescribed drugs not listed in the drug formulary — special requests should be submitted by the medical practitioner to the Director of the Drugs and Therapeutics Branch of the Ministry of Health. If a request is not approved, an alternative is suggested; people on FBA living in chronic care institutions are provided with assistive devices, wheelchairs, etc; referrals for FBA are usually made by the General Welfare office. Delays are often caused by the lack of necessary medical evidence.

## **Vocational rehabilitation**

A major concern of the Council has been, and continues to be, how the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Act is administered and how services are delivered thereby. In order to discuss this issue, which is of particular importance to a large number of physically handicapped residents of Ontario, the Council invited senior officers of the Ministry of Community and Social Services to attend its regular meeting on June 25, 1976. John

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Anderson, Assistant Deputy Minister, and Peter Crichton, Director, Rehabilitation Branch, gave a comprehensive presentation on the Act and its application and responded to a variety of questions and observations from Council members.

The primary objective of the vocational rehabilitation program, the Council learned, is to enable someone with a physical or mental impairment to return to the labour market. It is not a program to assist a person to live independently within the community without employment. Briefly, the program operates with a rehabilitation counsellor making an initial assessment of a client and establishing a vocational objective. A plan of action is then developed to achieve that objective. The service package has a maintenance component to pay the individual a set amount each month according to the schedule set out in regulations. The Branch also has the authority to purchase transportation, assistive devices, books etc. required for employment.

Mr. Anderson and Mr. Crichton told the Council that the Branch funds approximately 137 workshops of which about 90 or 65% are for the mentally retarded. The workshops submit program and budget information for approval and, when accepted, operate on their own as non-profit organizations. Up to 80% of the operating costs are funded by the Branch, with the remainder coming from the workshops. At the time of reporting, the Branch's funding level was approximately 53% of operating costs.

With regard to organizational structure and the delivery of rehabilitation services, Mr. Crichton told the Council there are 19 district offices and approximately 150 counselling staff, plus support and head office staff. If a local selection committee rejects or alters a request for service, the applicant has the right to appeal to the review board, which is an independent body with its own chairman. Hearings are informal and judgments rendered without accountability to the Ministry.

In answer to questions or comments by Council members, the following information was provided by Mr. Crichton and Mr. Anderson:

- Programs and policies do not differentiate between types of disabilities but, where manpower permits, there are counsellors who specialize in various disability groups. In addition, the Branch works with three 'approved' agencies — Canadian Hearing Society, Canadian National Institute for the Blind and Canadian Paraplegic Association —

who accept references, perform 'work-ups' and submit requests for services to the selection committees.

- Although employees of the workshops are paid less than the minimum wage, the provincial government supports the workshops to a rate equivalent to the minimum wage through the GAINS allowance and direct subsidization.
- An employer must apply to the government for a 'handicap permit' in order to pay a handicapped person less than the minimum wage.
- A means test is applied *only* for the provision of maintenance.
- The Branch dealt with approximately 16,000 people in 1975 and the active caseload at any one time is about 6,000 - 7,000, not all of whom require services.
- The success rate of job placements is 60-70% which includes people placed in competitive, sheltered and non-remunerative (such as housewives) employment.
- A computerized system will in the future provide precise data regarding client population.

*(Editor's note: Figures quoted above were off-the-cuff estimates.)*

The Council subsequently decided to study in depth the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Act and its application. Two summer students were being hired to review the Act from May-August, 1977 and report their findings and recommendations to the Council. Thereafter it is expected a brief will be developed through an Ad Hoc Committee for presentation to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development late in 1977 or early in 1978.

## Special education programs

Information concerning special education programs, particularly those relating to children with learning disabilities, was sought by the Council from the Ministry of Education. W. Keith Clarke, Director, Special Education Branch and Dr. G. D. Bergman, Chief Education Officer, Special Services, Special Education Branch, attended the regular Council meeting in June 1976 to take part in an informal exchange of such information.



Mr. Clarke and Dr. Bergman told the Council that the goal of the Special Education Branch is that all exceptional children who could profit from education should have the opportunity to do so. They said that approximately 11% of the school population in Ontario receives special education. The Branch was considering compulsory comprehensive special education and, in order to prepare a proposal and various alternatives, a survey was conducted by asking 5,000 school principals in the province to consult with local school nurses and appropriate associations to determine the number of eligible children who were not in school because of handicaps. The survey showed that 121 English-speaking and 12 French-speaking children were affected.

The Branch is also concerned about children who are already in the school system but require special help which they are not receiving. A brief survey revealed there are 10,000 such children, of whom approximately 5,000 require speech therapy and the others have learning disabilities, behavioural problems etc. These figures have been used to cost a proposal with regard to mandatory special education that is under consideration by the Management Board of Cabinet. The proposal addresses four goals of the Special Education Branch as they relate to exceptional children: to ensure a suitable educational program for all children; to ensure the availability of appropriate teachers; to ensure suitable facilities; and to ensure an equitable distribution of financial resources. It also recommends that local boards of education assume responsibility for the education of all children within their jurisdiction and that responsibility with regard to standards be restored to the Ministry of Education.

The Council agreed to support the proposal and instructed the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Special Needs of Physically Handicapped Children, assisted by the Council's Executive Officer and its Researcher, to prepare a draft brief for consideration. However, after considerable discussion at its August meeting about the suitability of inclusion of the concerns of the learning disabled in its terms of reference, the Council adopted the following motion:

That a letter be sent to the Honourable Margaret Birch, Provincial Secretary for Social Development, stating that 'Learning Disabilities' represent a very broad and complex area which the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped does not feel can be dealt with adequately within the Council, and urging that appropriate

alternative methods be sought for that purpose.

In acknowledging the letter, Mrs. Birch said she agreed that the Council should not be concerned further with the problems faced by the learning disabled.

## Employment

The 'handicap permit' program of the Ministry of Labour came under scrutiny by the Council at its July 1976 meeting. Mr. Gerald Murray, Assistant Administrator, Employment Standards Branch, Ministry of Labour, was invited to speak about the operation and enforcement of this program which is of particular interest to the Council and especially to those it serves.

Mr. Murray said there has been a handicap provision in the legislation of the Province of Ontario since 1921. With the cooperation and assistance of other ministries, the Employment Standards Branch, established in 1963, has been able to abolish much of the exploitation of handicapped employees that existed previously. 'Handicap permits' in certain circumstances allow employers to hire handicapped people at less than minimum wages. The issuance and subsequent monitoring of such permits are strictly controlled, with the employee's handicap being considered in relation to duties to be performed. The terms of a 'handicap permit,' Mr. Murray said, are limited to salary arrangements — all other aspects of the Employment Standards Act apply. Employers and employees (or guardians) are made aware of all the conditions of employment with both parties signing the permit application which is accompanied by a letter outlining hours of work, details of the handicapping condition, length of time work permit will apply, etc.

Questions directed by Council members to Mr. Murray elicited the following information:

- In the case of people receiving psychiatric rehabilitation or being dealt with by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the percentage of disability is decided by the Ministry or rehabilitation officer. In other situations, the task of the Employment Standards Branch is to determine the percentage to be deducted from the minimum wage, due to the handicap of a particular person in a particular job. As the minimum wage increases, that person's salary will increase accordingly within the terms of the permit.



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- The employment records of people hired under 'handicap permits' are reviewed no later than one year after the commencement of employment to determine the effect of the handicap on job performance.

It was suggested that the Branch should publish an explanatory booklet for employees describing the on-going process of evaluation, as it may not be clear to handicapped employees that they are not necessarily 'locked into' initial permit arrangements.

Council members Andrew Clarke and Heather Rankin, as well as Council's Executive Officer, Gerald Clarke, were part of the planning committee for a Seminar on the Employability of the Handicapped held at the Inn on the Park, Toronto, on November 26, 1976. Gerald Clarke was later on loan from the Advisory Council to act as coordinator. The purpose of the seminar was to sensitize potential employers to the availability and suitability of physically handicapped persons as employees. The seminar was jointly organized by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Health and Welfare Canada, agencies of the Ontario Government, Canada Manpower and national voluntary agencies. It was the first ever of its kind. The general reaction of the business and professional people attending was very favourable to the concept and they felt that such seminars should not be confined to Ontario. Following the seminar, the Council office received a large number of calls seeking information on how to go about hiring the physically handicapped.

In a speech to those attending the Seminar on Employability, Dr. Bette Stephenson, Minister of Labour, announced a pilot project within her Ministry to assess and increase the employment opportunities for the physically handicapped. Attempts will be made to place applicants who are physically disabled in positions with the Ministry, when suitable jobs become available. It is hoped this will become policy throughout all provincial government ministries.

*(Editor's note: Council received enormous praise for its work during informal comments made by the Honourable Margaret Birch at the seminar.)*

An 11-minute film on the employability of the handicapped, 'A Worker Like Any Other,' was screened during the seminar and was subsequently viewed by the Advisory Council. The film was sponsored by the Ministry of Community and Social Services in cooperation with Health and Welfare Canada and it conveys

very strongly and convincingly the message 'a guy in a chair on wheels rather than in a wheelchair.' It can be obtained for showing at no charge through Modern Talking Pictures Service, 1875 Leslie Street, Don Mills, Ontario M3B 2M6. Phone (416) 444-7347.

Another film on employment, 'The World of One in Seven,' was viewed by the Council in May 1976. The film is named after an employment agency for physically handicapped persons in Kingston and was produced for the purpose of creating an awareness amongst potential employers of the capabilities of the physically handicapped. It is available from the National Film Board in Kingston or Toronto.

## Designated licensing of motor vehicles

The Council spent considerable time investigating the advisability and feasibility of having a unique identification on vehicles driven by or for physically handicapped persons. One method would be a special designation on licence plates. Michael Nagel, Program Development Branch, Transportation Regulation Division, Ministry of Transportation and Communications, was invited to speak to the Council on this suggestion. Aside from the possibility of choice of numbers and letters, Mr. Nagel said it was the Ministry's position that there would be no issuance of designated licence plates to special interest groups.

In discussing the issue, the Council felt that the physically handicapped owners/operators of motor vehicles should themselves be consulted to ascertain whether such identification would be beneficial. The Council was joined in this position by the President, Douglas Harley, and the Board of the Ontario Federation for the Physically Handicapped, who were also interested in the possibility of vehicle identification. On a motion by the Council, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications was approached to supply a mailing list of the appropriate persons. The Ministry agreed to do this, but pointed out the estimated cost of \$3,500 would have to be borne by the Council and the Federation and they could not provide a clear-cut target date.

After much discussion of the reasons for and against designated licensing, including the fact that it could be neither wise nor safe for physically handicapped drivers to be 'labelled,' a motion was passed by the Council to pursue the

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matter no further, leaving the identification of vehicles driven by or for physically handicapped persons a matter of their choice.

## **Convenient pay phone installations**

Council's Executive Officer, working directly with the Public Affairs Department of Bell Canada, arranged to carry out a survey of existing telephone installations in Toronto designed specifically for the physically handicapped. Mr. Clarke sought input from the Ontario Federation for the Physically Handicapped as well as the Ontario March of Dimes on this matter. At its July 1976 meeting, the Council heard a report from William Owen, Past President of the OFPH, outlining the results of the survey. In checking the installations, attention was directed to the ease of entering the enclosures and of reaching the coin slots. The usual height of pay phone installations is 63" to 65" from the floor to the coin slot. The surveyed installations had heights of 48", 53", 54", 56" and 59" and all were found to be accessible to reach. It is interesting to note, Mr. Owen said, that a U.S. survey revealed that a 54" installation is more convenient to a sizeable percentage (27%) of non-handicapped people than the 63"-65" height. The study also showed that 93% of the physically handicapped population can use the phone at 54".

Some of the booths examined in the Toronto survey presented entry problems and this aspect of pay phone accessibility will have to be considered carefully in designing future installations. Other items requiring consideration are the placement of signs to indicate the existence of special installations and the development of a suitable dial for those with limited manual dexterity.

A copy of Mr. Owen's report was forwarded to Bell Canada with strong encouragement from the Council to direct its attention towards a more universally acceptable pay telephone, at a lower height convenient to all persons. The Council's Executive Officer was directed to maintain contact with Bell Canada on developments in the area of pay phone accessibility for the physically handicapped.

## **Accessible polling stations**

Arising out of the Advisory Council's recommendations as set out in a letter to Mr. Roderick Lewis, Q. C., Chief Election Officer,

selected polling stations established during the recent provincial election were publicized as being accessible to physically handicapped voters. A significant number of advanced and election day polling stations made it possible for handicapped voters to cast their ballots with ease and independence. The Council acknowledges the exemplary efforts of Mr. Lewis and his staff in their consideration so far and looks forward to a continued broadening of the number of accessible polling stations.

## **York University facilities**

York University has been used by groups of (or involving) physically handicapped people for conferences such as the Ontario Federation for the Physically Handicapped Housing Seminar and for housing disabled athletes during the 1976 Olympiad. On those occasions, minor renovations such as removing partition walls to make washrooms accessible were required, with the facilities being restored to their original state after each event. The Council felt it would be a distinct advantage to have permanently accessible conference facilities at York University and approached the President, H. Ian Macdonald, with this idea. Mr. Macdonald was very sympathetic to the proposal and arranged a meeting for representatives of the Council with William Small, Assistant to the President, and Robert Howard, Department of Campus Planning.

In the meeting it was established there is no place in Canada where any group can assemble and have accommodation, meeting rooms, washrooms, elevators, etc. which meet the needs of the physically handicapped. It was felt that York University could become such a place without major alterations. Messrs. Small and Howard agreed to examine the feasibility and cost of necessary changes to make Vanier Residence accessible on a permanent basis. In a subsequent meeting, the representatives of York University said they were totally in favour of the required renovations and the approximate cost was expected to be \$12,000 per floor. As neither the University nor the Council had funds to carry out the work, Mr. Howard said they proposed to approach the Ministry of Colleges and Universities for funding. However, the Council's Executive Officer pointed out this may be difficult to arrange, due to the present constraints, and the approach to York might well need the support of handicapped groups who would benefit from these renovations.



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The Council appreciated the cooperation of the York University authorities with regard to renovations to the washroom facilities within the Vanier complex and was unanimous in its agreement to support the University in their requests for funding for that purpose. Support was also expressed by Council members to broadly publicize the meeting facilities when completed.

## Difficulties in acquiring insurance

In view of the fact that a considerable number of physically handicapped persons have found difficulty in acquiring insurance (life, accident and automobile), the Council invited two members of a liaison committee between the insurance industry and those working in the rehabilitation field to address its meeting on October 22, 1976. Dr. R. G. Leckey, Area Medical Director, Bell Canada and Donald F. Douglas, Director, LAG Claims, Travelers Insurance Co. shared their experience and viewpoints with the Council.

Dr. Leckey told the Council that the liaison committee was initiated five years ago through contact made by the insurance industry with the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled. The idea of the committee is to foster rehabilitation and to encourage the insurance industry to become involved. From both a business and a humanitarian point of view, it is inadvisable to simply pay people money without making an effort to get them back to work. From his experience as an industrial physician, which included the treatment of addiction, Dr. Leckey believes that employee disabilities include areas other than physical — emotional and mental disturbances, alcohol and drug addictions, for example. However, it is his impression that there are now more 'disabled' people at work than ever before in spite of a tendency in industry to select only 'A-1' employees without regard to the actual requirements of the work.

Mr. Douglas described the concept of insurance as spreading the risk of the few amongst the many. It is the business of insurance companies to provide their product and at the same time make a profit. In considering the risk to the insurer, the insurable interest of the applicant is taken into account; for example, a person who is unemployed cannot purchase income protection insurance. Applications for life insurance are evaluated on the basis of statistical data relating to life expectancy. If the physical disability of an

applicant has no bearing on life expectancy, it would not be a factor in issuing a policy.

Disability income insurance is divided into two basic types: individual and group. Applications by individuals are reviewed on their merits and the cost is related to the risk of the person concerned. Group insurance is usually less expensive and as long as the member of an insured group meets the definition of an employee (at least 30 hours' employment per week), s/he is insured for the same benefits as any other employee. Statistically, handicapped employees have good attendance records and life expectancy. Small group insurance is slightly different and falls somewhere between individual and group insurance.

In the case of automobile insurance, policies are written for licensed drivers on the basis of driving records, without restrictions due to physical handicaps, although an additional charge is levied for certain specialized equipment. Because of the nature of travel cancellation insurance, there is no opportunity for the insurer to select or reject applicants; consequently, purchasers would be well advised to examine the terms of such policies very carefully.

During discussion with the Council, Dr. Leckey and Mr. Douglas provided the following information:

- When a fixed policy is in force, an insurance company does not generally make premium adjustments to allow for increased life expectancy. Renewable policies, however, can be changed at renewal date.
- While it is not a general practice, some companies may charge higher premiums when issuing automobile insurance to handicapped drivers.
- The liaison committee has held some very successful seminars which generated 'grass-roots' enthusiasm for rehabilitation. It is exploring the possibility of a referral centre so that people who are insured and have disabilities can be evaluated and perhaps return to work.
- The make-up of the committee is Canada-wide and is representative of rehabilitation and insurance interests (life, accident and automobile).
- One of the ways in which rehabilitation serves the general public interest is the possible reduction in premium costs resulting from a



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diminishment of the number of insurance claims. Rehabilitation is an area where 'doing the right thing' is good both for the public at large and insurance companies.

## Courses in architecture

At the direction of Council, the Executive Officer wrote in February 1977 to the Presidents of the four Ontario colleges offering architectural or architectural science courses — University of Toronto, Carleton University, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute and University of Waterloo — advising them that the Council recommends an awareness program dealing with 'the special needs of the handicapped' be incorporated into their architectural curriculum.

In his letter, Mr. Clarke pointed out that the design of the built environment is of particular concern to the physically handicapped, whose everyday activities may be restricted by architectural barriers. A simple 8" curb could appear as insurmountable as an 8' wall to someone confined to a wheelchair. It has been shown in numerous situations, Mr. Clarke wrote, that the simple requirements, level and wider entries, do not detract from appearance nor in any way render facilities inaccessible to the able-bodied. Easily accessible facilities are also a great benefit to the elderly and to mothers with prams.

Current legislation in Ontario, through the Building Code Act, assures access to and usability of a broad range of building types. While this is certainly viewed as a progressive measure, the letter concludes, there still exists a great need for further education in this area.

The President of the University of Toronto, John Evans, responded by advising the Council that the School of Architecture planned to hold a workshop in March 1977 to make its students aware of the needs of the physically handicapped in relation to its curriculum. This was the first time such an effort had been made by the School.

The University of Waterloo also responded to the Council's recommendation. The President, B.C. Matthews, wrote that their program does encourage an awareness of the special needs of the handicapped although they do not have a specific course on the subject. Mr. Matthews said they stress the needs of the physically and mentally disabled in their design studios and periodically particular problems are given to

students where special details and planning concepts are required to respond to those needs. Their professors are also aware of Swedish research into the physical and social needs of the handicapped. Mr. Matthews concludes: "We do appreciate your reminding us of the importance of making our architectural students aware of the special needs of the handicapped."

## Elevator design

The Chairman and the Executive Officer of the Council attended the February 15 meeting of the Committee on Elevating Devices for the Physically Handicapped, which was originally formed to determine safety and operating standards for elevators designed exclusively for use by physically handicapped persons. The Council hopes that these standards will enable group homes to install elevators at a reasonable cost and yet maintain sufficient safety standards. The Committee approved the installation of a prototype elevator in a group home in Burlington for which the cost will be met by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. While the prototype is expected to cost \$15,000, production models would be approximately \$6,000-7,000.

In discussion by the Council, it was learned some lifting devices are exempt from sales tax, some not, depending on the type and location. Federal sales tax exemption applies on an elevator installed in a stairwell but does not apply on a home elevator which runs vertically through a new opening. Rebates of provincial sales tax may be had by the purchaser claiming on a Standard Rebate Form from the Retail Sales Tax Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Revenue.

The Council is continuing to keep in touch with the Elevating Devices Branch of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, particularly in relation to inclusion of passenger elevator requirements for the handicapped in the C.S.A. B44 Code.

## Bus and train travel

At its meeting on March 4, 1977, the Council received notice (by way of a memorandum issued by the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled) of reduced fares for bus travel in Canada for a permanently disabled person and accompanying adult attendant. At the same time, the Chairman, Andrew Clarke, drew members'

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attention to the imminent CN policy of free fare for an attendant accompanying a physically handicapped person. Mr. Clarke expressed concern about the position of the physically handicapped person who has the ability and desire to travel alone but needs boarding assistance. Is he going to be forced into taking along an attendant when he travels by bus or train? In correspondence with the Hon. Otto Lang, Federal Minister of Transport, Mr. Clarke was informed that handicapped persons who are self-reliant on board the train may continue to travel alone. But handicapped travellers requiring boarding and detraining assistance must be lifted by a private attendant. In the same letter, Mr. Lang said Transport Canada was pursuing solutions to the problems of travel for handicapped persons and he expected further improvements in this area.

Mr. Clarke replied that, as feared, the intention of the policy of free fare for an attendant was to shift the whole burden of responsibility for boarding and debarking from trains to the physically handicapped person. This precludes a person who requires boarding assistance from travelling alone by train even for short distances. He would not be able to travel by train to Ottawa to call on Mr. Lang, without finding a suitable attendant, probably unemployed, who would require all expenses paid plus a per diem fee. The new policy, Mr. Clarke said, was really a retrograde step, although it appeared on the surface to be positive. "Our great fear now," he wrote, "is that this policy instituted by Greyhound Bus Lines and taken up by CN rail will be followed next by the airlines. I trust that you will use all of your resources to forestall that if there should be any move in that direction . . . If we lose the freedom to travel by air unattended there are no other options for travelling unattended via public carriers."

Mr. Clarke asked Mr. Lang to take an active part in promoting the development of mechanized boarding systems for the physically handicapped; the redesign of railroad passenger cars so that they will accommodate people who must use wheelchairs or are otherwise physically handicapped; and the redesign of terminal boarding facilities to make it easy for all people to get on and off the trains.

The Council's Executive Officer, Gerald Clarke, had been in touch by letter and phone with Robert A. Bandeen, President and Chief Executive Officer of Canadian National, to make him aware also of the difficulties physically disabled persons were facing in travelling by train; provide

information on a basic loading device used in conjunction with a lounge-type car with side entry doors and its own baggage space; and offer the help of the total resources of the Council to improve the situation.

In reply, Mr. Bandeen referred to: the new fare plan for disabled passengers introduced March 15, 1977; the fact that a ramp had been installed in Toronto Union Station to provide direct access by wheelchair to Track 1 and from there to all other passenger train tracks via cross-overs; their passenger people's awareness of various devices such as 'transport wheelchairs' and special boarding ramps in use at European terminals; the varying problems encountered by railways in comparison with, in particular, airlines — a Canadian airline may use approximately 30 terminals, the railways serve more than 1100 communities, many in remote locations with limited or no facilities — hence the almost impossible task of providing special arrangements at all stations; the publication by Transport Canada of 'Transportation in Canada: A Guide for the Disadvantaged'; and the fact that when newly designed passenger carrying equipment becomes available, it will include better on-board facilities for the physically handicapped, such equipment coming into service on a gradual basis, however.

Mr. Bandeen said he appreciated the offer of assistance by the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped in CN's efforts to improve conditions for the travelling handicapped and said he had asked their Vice-President of Passenger Marketing to contact the Council in the near future. As a result, a meeting was convened by the Council with representatives from various departments of VIA CN, Transport Canada, Urban Transportation Development Corporation, Canadian Paraplegic Association, Ontario Federation for the Physically Handicapped and the Council. While the meeting and the resultant action took place beyond the time frame of this annual report, it should be noted that the opportunity was gained to provide guidance to those involved with designing a train access system for passengers in wheelchairs. The Council is continuing to monitor the development of such a system by Transport Canada.

## **Rent Supplement Program in Port Colborne**

Late in November 1976, the Council was informed by Clem Brodhurst, President of the Port Colborne-Welland Chapter of the Multiple



Sclerosis Society of Canada, of plans by the Ministry of Housing (through Ontario Housing's Rent Supplement Program) to convert the R. Scott Misener staff residence owned by Port Colborne General Hospital into a senior citizens' apartment complex. Mr. Brodhurst had just read the Council's First Annual Report, particularly where it related to accommodation and support services. He felt that the apartment complex, instead of being strictly for senior citizens, might well accommodate some physically handicapped persons, particularly as the hospital was located right next door and could provide support services if required. He requested the assistance of Council in persuading the appropriate authorities to adopt his suggestion.

The Council's Executive Officer wrote to the Minister of Housing, the Mayor of Port Colborne and the Administrator of the Port Colborne General Hospital recommending that those involved in the planning of the future use of the R. Scott Misener staff residence give consideration to making available a portion of the units to the physically handicapped. Mr. Clarke pointed out that the philosophy of the Council with regard to accommodation is to encourage choice and he was sure there were some physically handicapped individuals in the Port Colborne area who might choose to live in such a setting as the staff residence. The Minister of Housing, the Hon. John R. Rhodes, felt the Council's suggestion was very worthwhile and asked Terry Garland, Director of Supplementary Programs and Special Projects Branch, to work with the Council to ascertain more precisely what further steps may be taken.

Mr. Garland gave excellent cooperation both to the Council's Executive Officer and Mr. Brodhurst with the result that the Ontario Housing Corporation agreed to accept applications for units in the R. Scott Misener residence from persons under the age of 60 who are physically handicapped. When writing to Mr. Brodhurst of this decision, Mr. Garland said their Ministry supports housing solutions which assist physically handicapped persons to live independently. "The Port Colborne experiment," he added, "offers excellent opportunity to work together on specific solutions on an individual basis."

The cooperation of all concerned in this significant achievement — government, voluntary agencies and this Council — demonstrates the effectiveness of working together towards a common goal.

## Inter-Ministerial Council on Rehabilitation

The Council invited Al Gordon, Chairman of the Inter-Ministerial Council on Rehabilitation, to its March 25, 1977 meeting in order to learn the reasons for and organization of this new body. Mr. Gordon is Assistant Deputy Minister, Developmental Resources, Ministry of Community and Social Services, and is involved in the Mental Retardation sector.

Under the direction of the Social Development Committee, of which the Honourable Margaret Birch is Chairman, Mr. Gordon said, the Inter-Ministerial Council has been set up in recognition of the fact that within the government there is a need for coordination of the rehabilitation programs offered through various ministries. The Council is taking a close look at programs in such ministries as Health, Labour (The Workmen's Compensation Board), Education and Community and Social Services with a view to bringing them more closely together and recommending improvements in operation. They would be trying to find methods of sharing responsibility instead of dividing it and working on the principle of 'Let's agree to agree — not veto.'

The Council on Rehabilitation's intent is not to take over the function of councils such as that on the physically handicapped. Nor is it their role to become a chief adviser to government but rather to help in arriving at decisions. They will not counteract any reports made by the Advisory Council — they would want to share and discuss any problems in implementing recommendations. The Council has been formed to overcome as much as possible the problem of being referred from department to department, from ministry to ministry. They don't want to upset the validity of bodies such as the Advisory Council, whose input is important and needed. They intend to proceed step by step, the first of which is arriving at a solution to the problem of Ontario's fragmented rehabilitation process and this may take two to three years. The second step might be to arrive at a consistent policy for the provision of prosthetic, orthotic and assistive devices, taking the broad problem of funding into consideration (*Editor's note: See Appendix 2, Recommendation No. 12 and Appendix 4 for the Advisory Council's position in this regard*).

The Inter-Ministerial Council, Mr. Gordon said, is concerned with the needs of *all* handicapped, although it may get involved in some specifics. It has a receptive, socially conscious group of



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ministries at the present time which bodes well toward achieving its goals. It would want to encourage cooperation between the federal and provincial governments in their rehabilitation policies. As the Inter-Ministerial Council develops and resolves the matters it is going to deal with, Mr. Gordon said he would look forward to meeting with the Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped.

Remarks by  
the Honourable Margaret Birch  
Provincial Secretary for  
Social Development

### **Transportation pilot projects for the physically disabled**

News Conference  
Wednesday, September 29, 1976  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park

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It gives me great pleasure to announce today a pilot program of transportation services for the physically disabled.

As you know, we have been looking for some time at the special transportation needs of the physically disabled and a program has now been developed . . . through the cooperative efforts of the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the Secretariat for Social Development . . . which, I believe, takes us a large step toward providing transportation services that will give physically disabled people freedom of movement at reasonable cost.

The program reflects this Government's determination to design and develop services that Ontario residents require to build and maintain independent and dignified lives. It is an approach which I subscribe to wholeheartedly.

We believe that we must act to encourage the provision of special transportation services for the physically disabled. As you may know, there have already been extensive studies undertaken by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. Our conclusion is that it is appropriate to focus on the needs of the physically disabled, whatever their age.

My colleague, Jim Snow, will elaborate, but I would just like to tell you that participation in the program has been offered to Chatham, Ottawa, Peterborough and Sault Ste. Marie and Metro Toronto. There have been extensive consultations between Mr. Snow's Ministry and each of the municipalities.

The projects, which will go on for two years, will enable the Government to assess the services with the view of establishing a province-wide policy.

An important aspect of the program is the local involvement. They will be run through the local municipalities with local eligibility advisory committees establishing the fares and the acceptance of applicants. Municipalities will be expected to integrate into the system any existing services and assistance provided by volunteer agencies.

All too often, and I view this trend with a good deal of uneasiness, government involvement tends to drive out the valuable contributions made by volunteers. We want to safeguard against the disappearance of this very essential aspect of the program.

Before turning this gathering over to Mr. Snow, I want to say a very special thank you for the support of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped. The Council's recommendations concerning transportation policy for the disabled have assisted our discussions in the development and introduction of this new program.



Report and Recommendations  
of the  
Ontario Advisory Council on  
the Physically Handicapped  
relating to  
The Family Benefits Act  
GAINS-D Program

**Income maintenance  
for the  
physically handicapped**

February 1977



Secretariat for	Ontario	416/965-9537	3rd Floor
Social	Advisory Council		801 Bay Street
Development	on the		Toronto Ontario
	Physically Handicapped		M5S 1Z1

The Honourable Margaret Birch  
Provincial Secretary for Social Development  
4th Floor - North Wing  
Legislative Building  
QUEEN'S PARK

Dear Madam Minister:

I am pleased to send you herewith the Report and Recommendations of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped on Income Maintenance relating to the Family Benefits Act GAINS-D Program. It forms the first of what Council hopes will be a series of reports and recommendations regarding income maintenance for the physically handicapped generally. Later reports will have to do with more radical concepts, including negative income tax provisions.

The Council feels that the accompanying recommendations are workable, equitable and a matter of first priority.

It may be found that some or all of these recommendations will be equally applicable to recipients of Family Benefits other than the physically handicapped.

This report resulted from the work of Council's sub-Committee on Income Maintenance under the leadership of J. Stobo Prichard, assisted by Margaret Elliott, Douglas Manuel, Charles McCormack, Clare Millar, Robert Rumball and John Yorke; and Philippa McKen of the Council part-time staff.

The report is supported by a detailed supplement which is available on request from the Council office.

Yours sincerely,

EDWARD DUNLOP

Chairman

5 February 1977

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## Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Erik Fish and Larry Truesdell, law students at the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall respectively, who prepared a background paper under the supervision of Professors Michael J. Trebilcock, Sam Rea and J. Robert S. Prichard of the Law and Economics Program of the Faculty of Law of the University of Toronto.

We are also grateful to James M. Swanson, Ph.D., of the Neuro-Psychology Laboratory of the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, for his advice about the statistical procedure.

## Introduction

Many years ago, people who had physical handicaps severe enough to interfere with their capacity to earn a living were either looked after by their families and friends or were subject to the whims of charity. Society gradually began to accept some responsibility for its more unfortunate members and gradually introduced various measures to improve their care. As more needs have been perceived as falling into the realm of public responsibility, changes have been made in existing regulations. One result of this gradual evolution of public benefits for the physically handicapped is that the regulations have become cumbersome and complicated. Another is that the interaction of several programs sometimes results in individuals being treated unfairly or with less adequacy than was probably intended.

The Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped has examined the present legislation and regulations, as they apply to the physically handicapped citizens of Ontario, and are making twelve proposals for change. **The recommendations are modifications of existing programs. None should be significantly more difficult to administer than is presently the case. The thrust of the proposals is to try to get more physically handicapped persons back into the work force. This will achieve the double objective of giving them the satisfaction of becoming productive members of society and, through their earnings, diminishing the cost of the programs.**



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## Recommendation No. 1

### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE PRESENT "TAXBACK" RATE OF 75% BE LOWERED TO 50%.**

Under FBA/GAINS-D, a single individual receives an allowance of \$250.00 a month. If he works he can earn up to \$60.00 a month (\$50 plus \$10 work allowance) with no reduction in allowance. If he earns more than \$60.00 a month the amount he receives from FBA is reduced by 75% of the amount he earns over \$60.00. This is the 'taxback'. It amounts to a 75% tax on earnings over \$60.00 a month. This rate continues until the point is reached where he no longer receives any money from FBA. This is the break even point which, for a single person, is about \$400.00 a month. From then on he will be taxed at the regular income tax rate which at that point is about 8%. As family size rises, so does the amount that can be earned before taxback begins.

Most people on FBA/GAINS-D earn nothing. Quite a lot earn up to the point at which the taxback cuts in. Very few earn money beyond this point. If a statistical analysis is made of the likelihood of this sudden drop-off being caused by chance, it is less than one in a thousand (see Appendix). The evidence that this massive taxation on earnings (higher than the highest income tax range) is a disincentive to work is overwhelming.

If the taxback was eliminated altogether and the handicapped were given an allowance irrespective of earnings (a demogrant), the administrative problems would be great and the cost would be large.

A graduated taxback, whilst a theoretical possibility, is very difficult to administer.

As the taxback rate is reduced, the break even point rises. At a taxback rate of 30%, the break even point is \$900.00 a month. This means that a handicapped person could earn a lot more than the minimum wage and yet have an allowance from FBA. Whilst one could argue that this is poor compensation for being handicapped, at present it is a proposition that is probably unacceptable.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to find evidence from other jurisdictions to show that one taxback rate is better than another. We suggest 50% because the break even point is reasonable (\$550 a month) and because we know that 75% is too high.

If our strategy is successful, there should be a cost saving. People who now receive the full FBA allowance will be encouraged to have earnings in excess of \$60.00 a month. The amount paid to the individual by FBA will be reduced by half their earnings over \$60.00.

## Recommendation No. 2

### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE DATA BASE FROM WHICH THE PRESENT FBA/GAINS-D ALLOWANCE FOR WORK RELATED EXPENSES WAS DERIVED BE RE-EXAMINED AND, IN THE MEANTIME, THE WORK RELATED EXPENSE ALLOWANCE BE INCREASED 12.9% IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONSUMER PRICE INDEX INCREASES SINCE THE TIME THIS FIGURE WAS SELECTED.**

There are costs in entering the work force. For example, special clothing may be required, special tools may need to be purchased, and it may be necessary to travel to work.

The present FBA work related expense is \$10.00 a month, which for most people is inadequate. Transportation costs alone usually exceed this. In Toronto, which has a subsidized transportation system (the T.T.C.), the cost is 80¢ a day for a return trip. This amounts to \$16.00 a month if the person travels five days a week, or \$12.80 if he travels four days a week. Even if we assume that the physically handicapped person is not denied public transportation because of accessibility problems, he will spend more than his total work related expense in travel alone.

Work related expenses vary enormously. For people who work at or near home in a job requiring little personal expenditure, \$10.00 a month is more than adequate. For most it is not. We recognize that the administrative costs of collecting and monitoring individual receipts is unreasonable and that some general formula should be found. We hope the Province will consider the problem and at least reassess the data base from which the present \$10.00 allowance was extrapolated. In the meantime, we suggest that the work related expense allowance should be adjusted by 12.9% in accordance with the Consumer Price Index increase since the time this figure was selected.

### Recommendation No. 3

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT COMPULSORY DEDUCTIONS (UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, CANADA PENSION PLAN, AND INCOME TAX) BE CONSIDERED WORK RELATED EXPENSES AND NOT BE COUNTED AS INCOME AGAINST WHICH THE TAXBACK IS APPLIED.**

One of the problems of the existing multiplicity of programs, each reacting to a need or set of needs, is that they sometimes produce contradictory results. What is given by one may be taken away by another. UIC, CPP and Income Tax, all admirable plans in their own right, are compulsory deductions from earned income. If taxback is already being applied to this income, the total taxation may be unfair. For example, a single disabled person with a monthly earned income of \$300.00 has an FBA allowance of \$70.00. Compulsory UIC and CPP deductions are \$9.15, which results in a net income of \$360.85. If he increases his earnings to \$350.00 a month, his FBA allowance is reduced to \$32.50. His UIC and CPP deductions amount to \$10.91 and, in addition, he has to pay \$16.58 Income Tax. This means that his net income is \$355.01 — a **loss** of \$5.84. Hardly an incentive to work.

A simple solution for this obviously unfair situation in which, as a result of working harder and getting paid more, net income actually decreases is that compulsory deductions from UIC, CPP and Income Tax should be considered work related expenses and not counted as income against which the taxback is applied.

### Recommendation No. 4

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT FBA/GAINS-D RECIPIENTS PERMANENTLY CONFINED TO A WHEELCHAIR BE REIMBURSED FOR THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ACTUAL WORK RELATED TRANSPORTATION COSTS AND THE COSTS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.**

People who are confined to a wheelchair have enormous transportation costs and the present work related expense of \$10.00 a month is totally unrealistic and unfair. For instance, a one way trip with a commercial agent within the confines of Metropolitan Toronto is \$6.00 in the daytime and \$8.00 in the evening or on weekends.

This is a readily identifiable small group. The administrative difficulties in processing receipts for travel to and from work is small as is the cost of the program because of the small number of people involved.

### Recommendation No. 5

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE DATA BASE FROM WHICH THE PRESENT FBA/GAINS-D ALLOWANCE FOR TRANSPORTATION WAS DERIVED BE RE-EXAMINED. IN THE MEANTIME, THE TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCE SHOULD BE INCREASED 55.6% IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHANGES IN THE TRANSPORTATION COMPONENT OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.**

Physically handicapped people in general have great transportation costs which are recognized in FBA/GAINS-D by an extra allowance. They are often unable to drive. They often cannot use public transportation. They often lead isolated lives and do not have a wide circle of friends to assist them. But they still need to go shopping, go to the community centre, visit their friends and attend to the myriad of duties that our complex society demands. The costs vary greatly from individual to individual but the administrative difficulty of allotting an amount of money to each person according to his needs is so great as to be probably unreasonable. However, the present system is inadequate for most. We suggest that the Province re-examine the data base upon which these amounts are based. In the meantime, they should be increased by 55.6% in accordance with increases in the transportation component of the Consumer Price Index since 1970 when these figures were selected.

### Recommendation No. 6

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT RENT PAID BY AN FBA/GAINS-D RECIPIENT WHO IS IN RENT-GEARED-TO-INCOME HOUSING NOT BE INCREASED UNTIL HIS EARNINGS ARE SUCH THAT HE CEASES TO RECEIVE BENEFITS.**

Ontario subsidized housing has a rent-geared-to-income policy by which as income rises so does rent. If a rent increase is applied to an FBA/GAINS-D recipient it represents an additional tax on income that is already being 'taxed' at 75% in the taxback system. Even a small rent increase may mean that net income diminishes as gross income rises — a strong disincentive to increasing productivity.

We recommend that there be no rent increase while an individual is receiving benefits from FBA/GAINS-D.

When an individual increases his earnings to the point at which he no longer receives FBA/GAINS-D he may face a 'notch' effect in which he has a significant rent increase quite suddenly. Whilst this is compensated by the much lower Income Tax rate as compared to the taxback rate, consideration should be given to a graduated rise of rent to the generally prevailing level.

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## Recommendation No. 7

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT NO CEILING BE PLACED ON THE LEVEL OF LIQUID ASSETS AN FBA/GAINS-D RECIPIENT MAY HOLD. INTEREST FROM LIQUID ASSETS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN INCOME AND TREATED THE SAME AS OTHER EARNINGS.**

An FBA/GAINS-D recipient may not own more than \$1,500.00 in liquid assets (cash or securities). This means that a physically handicapped person must spend everything in excess of \$1,500.00 before he becomes eligible for FBA/GAINS-D. It also means that if he were to receive an inheritance or win a sweepstake for \$5,000.00, he loses his FBA/GAINS-D benefits until such time as he has spent all the money in excess of \$1,500.00.

The reasons for this regulation are not hard to find. FBA/GAINS-D is supposed to provide essential needs if they cannot be provided by the individual. If somebody has \$5,000.00 he can provide these needs himself and does not need FBA/GAINS-D. The \$1,500.00 is allowed because some 'cushion' is desirable for circumstances such as unexpected necessary expenditure or failure of the cheque to arrive on time.

The problem with this reasoning is that it encourages waste and discourages thrift; and this is contrary to the generally accepted value system of our society. It encourages extravagance. It inhibits the belief that one should ensure against a 'rainy day' by saving. It forces people who have been brought up to believe in one set of values to live another. It is one more difference of life style for the handicapped.

It cannot often be said that as a result of a change in an economic program **everybody** would be better off; but we believe it to be true in this instance. If the \$5,000.00 were saved and the income treated as 'earned income', the recipient would continue to see advantage in being thrifty and he would have the satisfaction of knowing that his savings were protecting him from a catastrophe. The taxpayer would be better off because 'earned income' would be increased and FBA benefits consequently diminished. Society would be better off because there would be less waste. The administrator would be better off because he would only have to deal with income and need not bother about capital.

Unfortunately, this will only apply to a very small number of people because potential FBA/GAINS-D recipients are not rich.

## Recommendation No. 8

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT NO LIMIT BE PLACED ON NON-LIQUID ASSETS AN FBA/GAINS-D RECIPIENT MAY HOLD AND THAT RENTAL INCOME, ACTUAL OR DEEMED, BE INCLUDED IN INCOME. THE RECIPIENT'S PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE EXEMPT.**

Under the existing regulations non-liquid assets (property) other than the house in which the recipient lives must be sold and the liquid assets so obtained reduced to \$1,500.00 before eligibility for FBA/GAINS-D is established.

The arguments applicable to liquid assets in Recommendation No. 7 are also valid here. The system encourages waste and discourages thrift to the detriment of everybody.

Income is not always obtained from property but it is not reasonable to have limitless wealth and yet receive benefits from FBA/GAINS-D. We propose that property from which a realistic rent is not being received be assessed at market value and that there be deemed interest on that amount at an appropriate rate. This means that if, for instance, a potential FBA/GAINS-D recipient has a cottage as well as a house he will have the choice of keeping the cottage and having his FBA/GAINS-D allowance reduced by the amount of interest deemed to be obtained from its value, or selling the cottage and having his FBA/GAINS-D allowance reduced by the actual interest he receives. Whilst the likelihood is small that he will be able to live without the actual cash coming to him each month, the fact that he has this choice puts him in the same category as other people.

The number of people who will be faced with this choice is minuscule — potential FBA/GAINS-D recipients are not rich in property as they are not rich in cash.



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## Recommendation No. 9

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE PROVINCE RECONSIDER THE DATA BASE FROM WHICH THE \$75.00 PER MONTH SHELTER ALLOWANCE WAS DERIVED AND GIVE CONSIDERATION TO AN ALLOWANCE WEIGHTED ACCORDING TO LOCATION. IN THE MEANTIME, THE PRESENT SHELTER ALLOWANCE SHOULD BE RAISED 11.2% IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHANGES IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX RENT COMPONENT SINCE THE TIME THE SHELTER ALLOWANCE FIGURE WAS SELECTED.**

The individual costs of shelter vary greatly depending mostly on location, although there are other factors involved such as accessibility. In general, rents are higher in the large urban centres. Some local municipal authorities are sufficiently aware of the financial difficulties of FBA recipients that they give an additional shelter subsidy under GWA. This flexibility is highly desirable but now depends on municipal discretion.

We suggest that the Province give consideration to having the shelter allowance weighted according to location. In the meantime, we suggest that the allowance be increased by 11.2% in accordance with changes in the Consumer Price Index rent component since the time this figure was selected.

## Recommendation No. 10

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT FBA/GAINS-D PROGRAMS BE DESIGNED TO CHANGE WITH INCREASES IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX. THE PRESENT BENEFIT LEVELS SHOULD BE RAISED 12.9% IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHANGES IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SINCE THE BENEFIT LEVELS WERE SET.**

We have already recommended in this report that the Consumer Price Index should be applied to housing, transportation and work related expenses. We also believe it should be applied to the general provisions of the program. Inflation does exist. We have to assume that the benefits given under FBA were not more than adequate when they were set. It follows that they must become less than adequate as inflation takes effect.

## Recommendation No. 11

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT MARRIED DISABLED FEMALES BE ALLOWED TO APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER FBA/GAINS-D IN THEIR OWN RIGHT.**

Under the present system, the disabled male who is dependent on his spouse for support and maintenance is eligible to apply for an allowance whereas a disabled female is not.

We can find no justification for this and recommend that it be changed so that men and women are treated equally.

## Recommendation No. 12

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT ESSENTIAL PROSTHETIC, ORTHOTIC AND ASSISTIVE DEVICES BE INSURED BENEFITS UNDER THE ONTARIO HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN.**

This recommendation lies outside the FBA/GAINS-D program but is of such importance to the physically handicapped that we thought it should be included among our proposals.

Nobody can deny that essential prosthetic, orthotic and assistive devices are indeed essential. The present arrangement by which they may be provided under several different programs is an absurd complication for a physically handicapped person whose life already has so many other complications.

### MINORITY REPORT SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOHN KELLERMAN

I disagree with Recommendation No. 1 and feel that there should be no taxback whatsoever. It is not a welfare matter. A minimum guaranteed annual income should be a right for all disabled persons in the Province of Ontario. By recommending merely a 50% taxback, we are not going far enough and just appearing to play the government game of giving tokens.

This is a negative income tax issue, not welfare. We are still penalizing persons for earning money and our constituents are certainly going to question us on our petty actions.

Five years hence, when the government agrees to a guaranteed annual income similar to that received by old age pensioners — with no taxback — we will be shown in a poor light. To say that a system with no taxback is unworkable indicates only that we have no hope or imagination.

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# Appendix to ‘Income maintenance for the physically handicapped’

## STATISTICAL EVALUATION OF THE TAXBACK BARRIER

The effect of the taxback point is shown graphically in figures 1 to 4. These figures were constructed from the data provided in Table 1. The non-working recipients were excluded and the percentage of ‘working recipients’ in each family size class was calculated for each income range. Since the income ranges reported in Table 1 varied from \$5 to \$60, the total percentage in the larger income intervals was equally distributed across \$5 intervals in order to make meaningful comparisons.

As shown in Figures 1 to 4, peaks occur at the taxback points. For each family size, the largest percentage of recipients occurs in the income interval just before the taxback point, and a substantial drop occurs just after the taxback point in each case. In Table 2, the estimated numbers of recipients in \$5 income intervals surrounding the taxback points are given for each family size class. Of the total 415 recipients in these two income intervals, approximately 70% occupy the interval just below the taxback point, while only 30% occupy the marginally higher income interval just after the taxback point. Presumably, the introduction of the taxback point produces this unequal distribution of recipients across these two income intervals; the observed distribution of twice as many recipients concentrated just below the taxback point as just above it would occur by chance less than 1 time out of 10,000 (large sample test of a proportion,  $z = 7.9$ ,  $p \leq .0001$ ).

A further statistical evaluation of the taxback effect can be made (without having to estimate the number of recipients in \$5 income intervals) by considering only the recipients in the \$115-\$120 and the \$120-\$125 income intervals (see Table 1). For the family size 3 class, the taxback point occurs between the \$115-\$120 and the \$120-\$125 income interval, and a corresponding drop in the number of recipients from 82 to 35 occurred at this point. On the other hand, the taxback point occurs just after the \$125 income level for the family size 4 class, and an increase in recipients from 58 in the \$115-\$120 to 75 in the \$120-\$125 income interval occurred in this sample of data. Such a difference in the distribution of recipients across the two income intervals, which we suggest is due to the introduction of the taxback point, would occur by chance less than 1 time out of 1000 ( $X_{(1)} = 17.7$ ,  $p \leq .001$ ).

As a control, the same statistical test was made for the family size 1 and 2 classes. Since the taxback point had already been exceeded by recipients in these two groups at income ranges \$115-\$120 and \$120-\$125, the effect attributed to the introduction of the taxback point should not be observed. As can be seen in Table 1, the distribution across these two income ranges is approximately the same for family sizes 1 and 2 (even though the distribution differed significantly across the same income ranges for family sizes 3 and 4), and this observation is supported by a Chi-Square analysis ( $X_{(1)} = .12$ , n.s.).

The total group of recipients is shown in Table 1. A selected sub-group of the total is shown in Table 3. This sub-group is composed of the recipients of FBA/GAINS-D. In this selected subset, the number of recipients is so limited for all but the family size 1 class that statistical analysis is not appropriate. But for a family size of one, a finer analysis of the data is possible because information on the distribution of recipients across income levels in \$10 increments was available (compared to the \$0-\$60 and the \$60-\$115 intervals available for the total group). As shown in Figure 5, the same peak (shown in Figures 1-4 earlier) associated with the taxback point was observed in this subset of data. For family size 1, 116 of the recipients earned between \$50 and \$60, the last income interval before the taxback point. Taxback began at \$60 and the number of recipients in the next income range fell to 64. The likelihood of such an unequal distribution occurring by chance alone across these two adjacent income intervals is less than 1 out of 1000 ( $z = 3.8$ ,  $p \leq .001$ ).





TABLE 2

Estimated number of recipients within \$5 income ranges  
surrounding the taxback point

FAMILY SIZE	BEFORE TAXBACK	AFTER TAXBACK	
1. (Taxback at \$60)	68.5	16.5	
2. (Taxback at \$115)	62.5	42	
3. (Taxback at \$120)	82.0	35	
4. (Taxback at \$125)	75.0	34.2	
TOTALS	288.0	127.7	415.7
	69.3%	30.7%	100%

TABLE 3

FBA/GAINS-D SUB GROUP

December 1976

Number of Recipients within specific income ranges

FAMILY SIZE	Taxback starts ↓							
1	27	57	182	94	105	116	64	26
2	0	4	9	13	16	14	15	7
3	0	1	0	3	5	6	7	2
4	0	2	2	5	8	10	10	12
TOTALS	27	64	193	115	134	146	96	47
	0-10	10-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70-80
	Income Intervals							

Fig.(1)

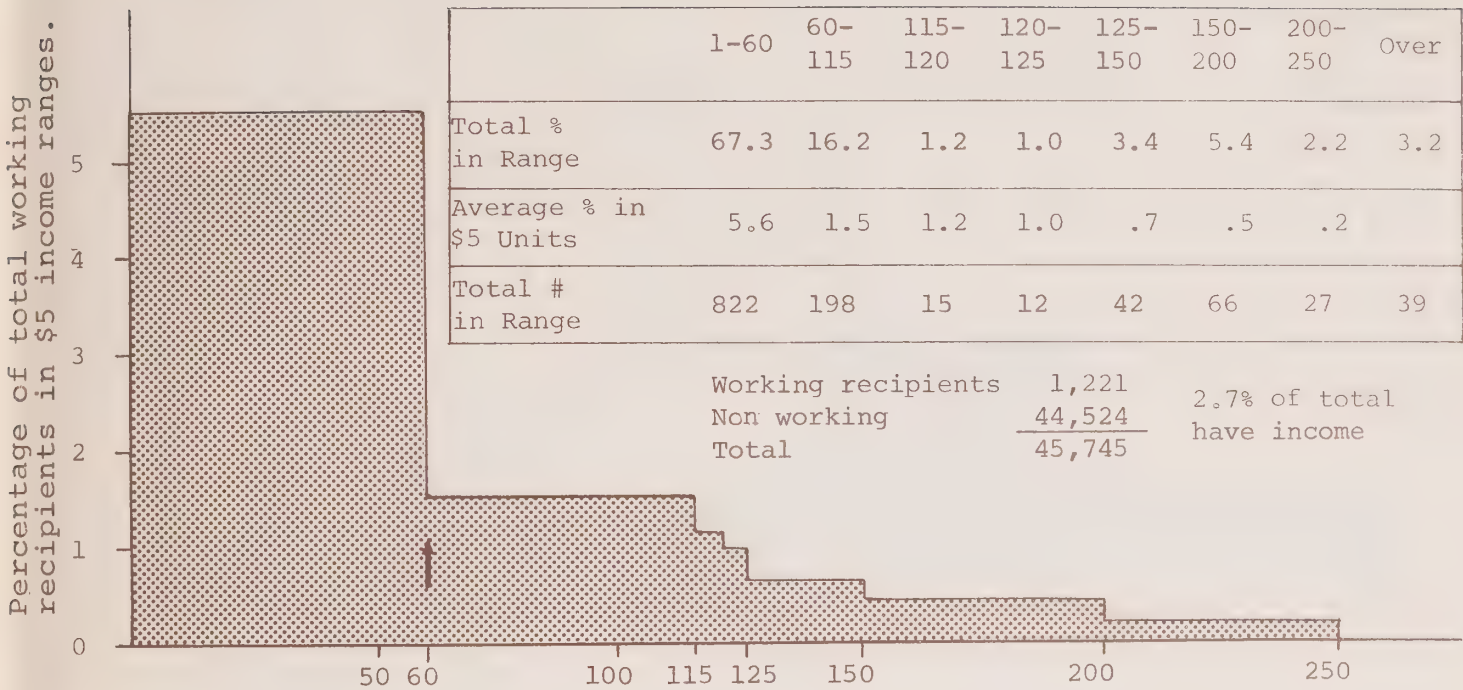


Fig.(2)

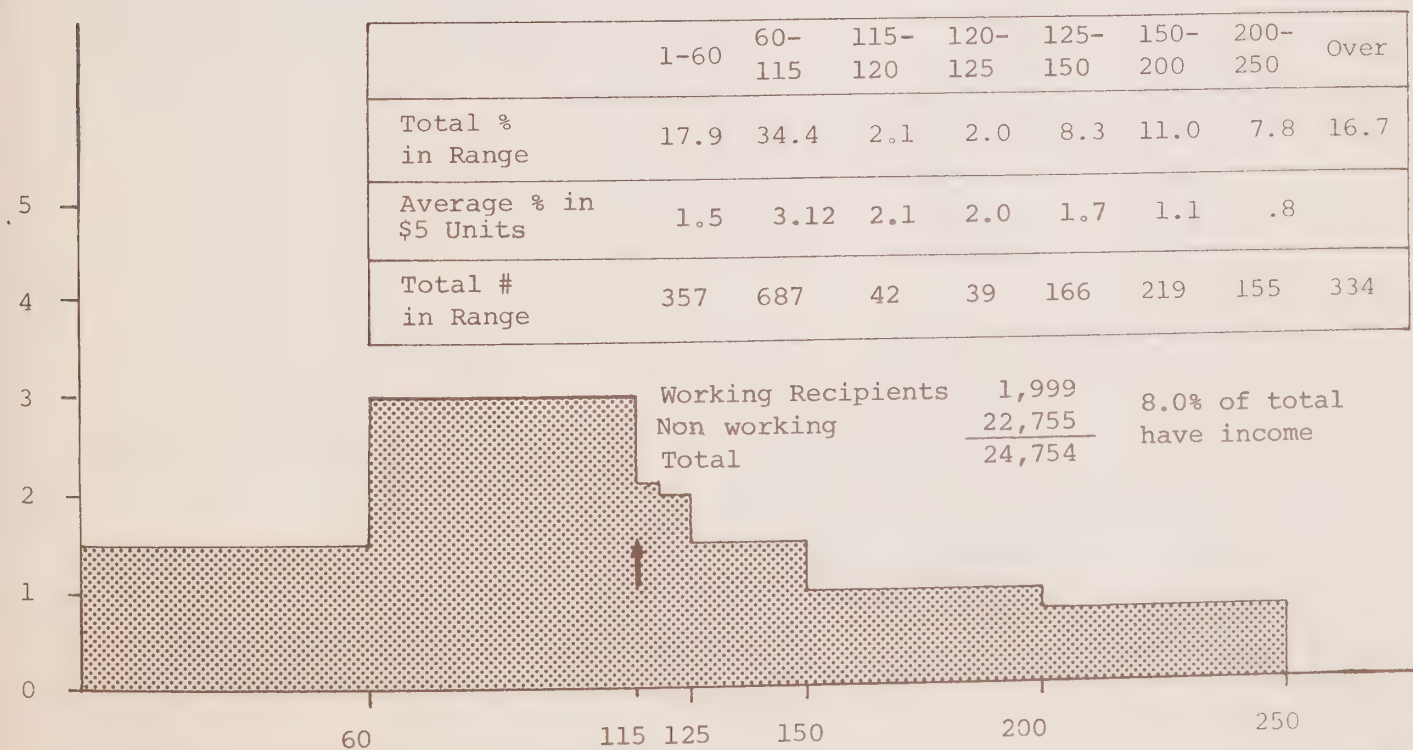


Fig. (3)

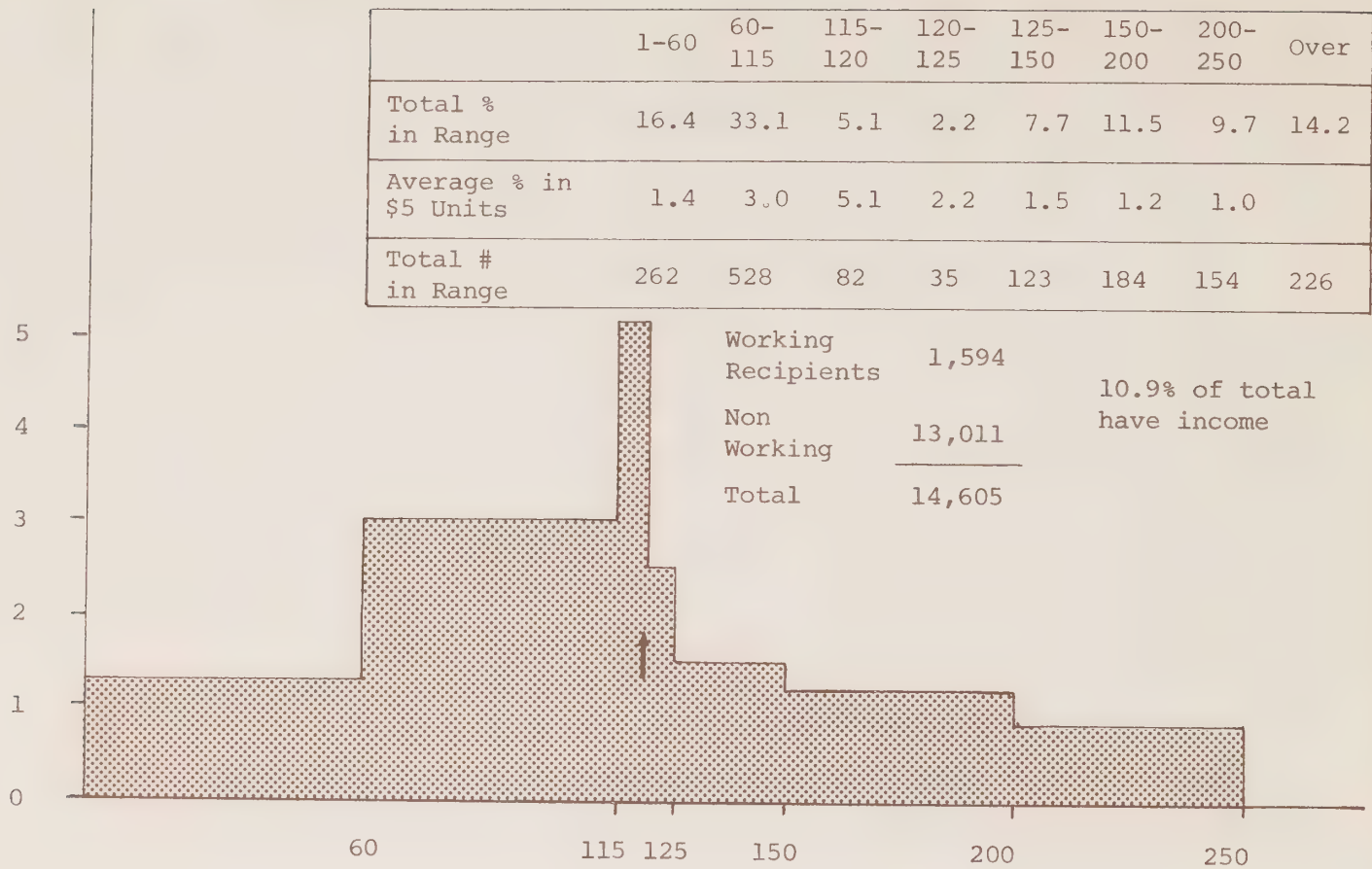


Fig. (4)

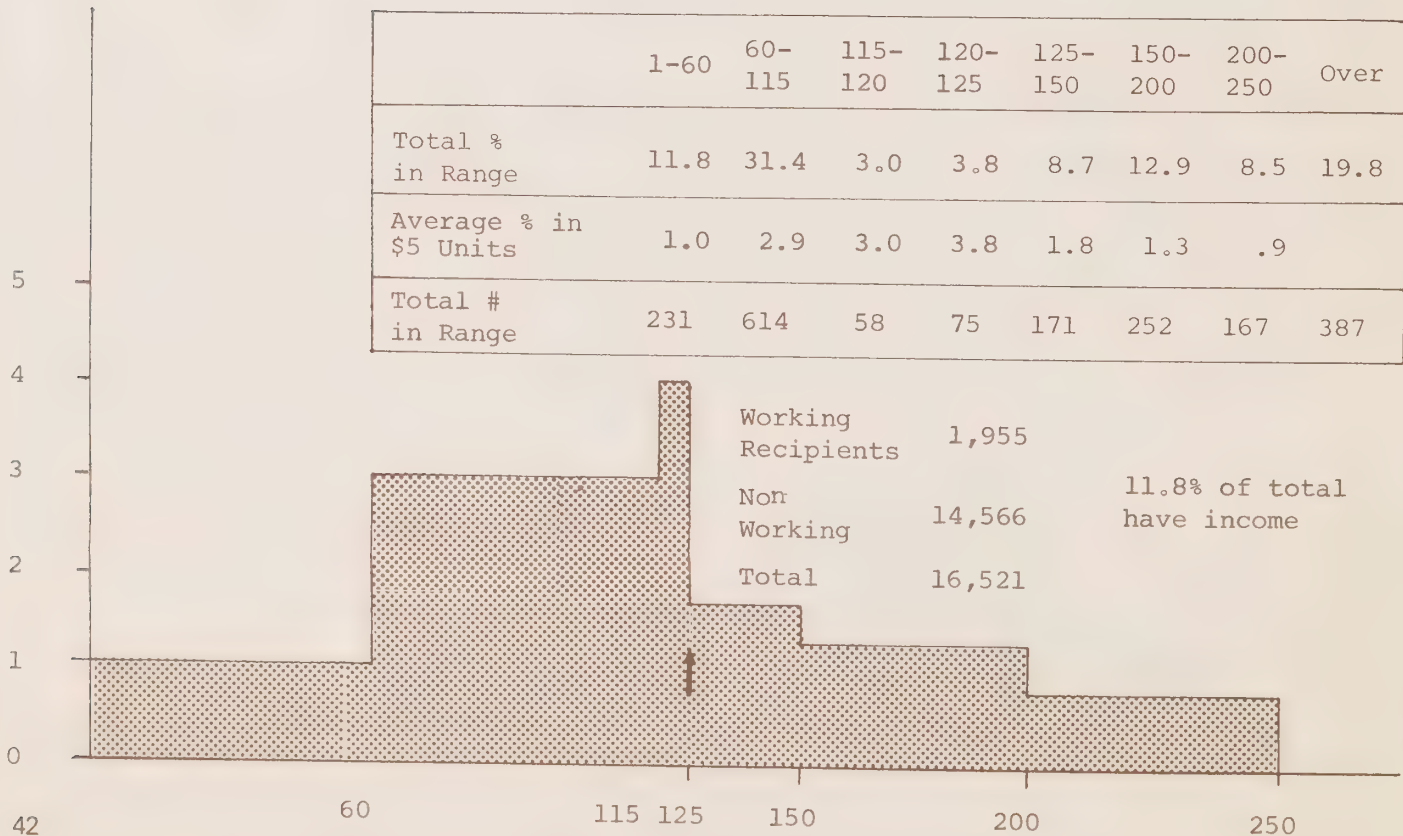
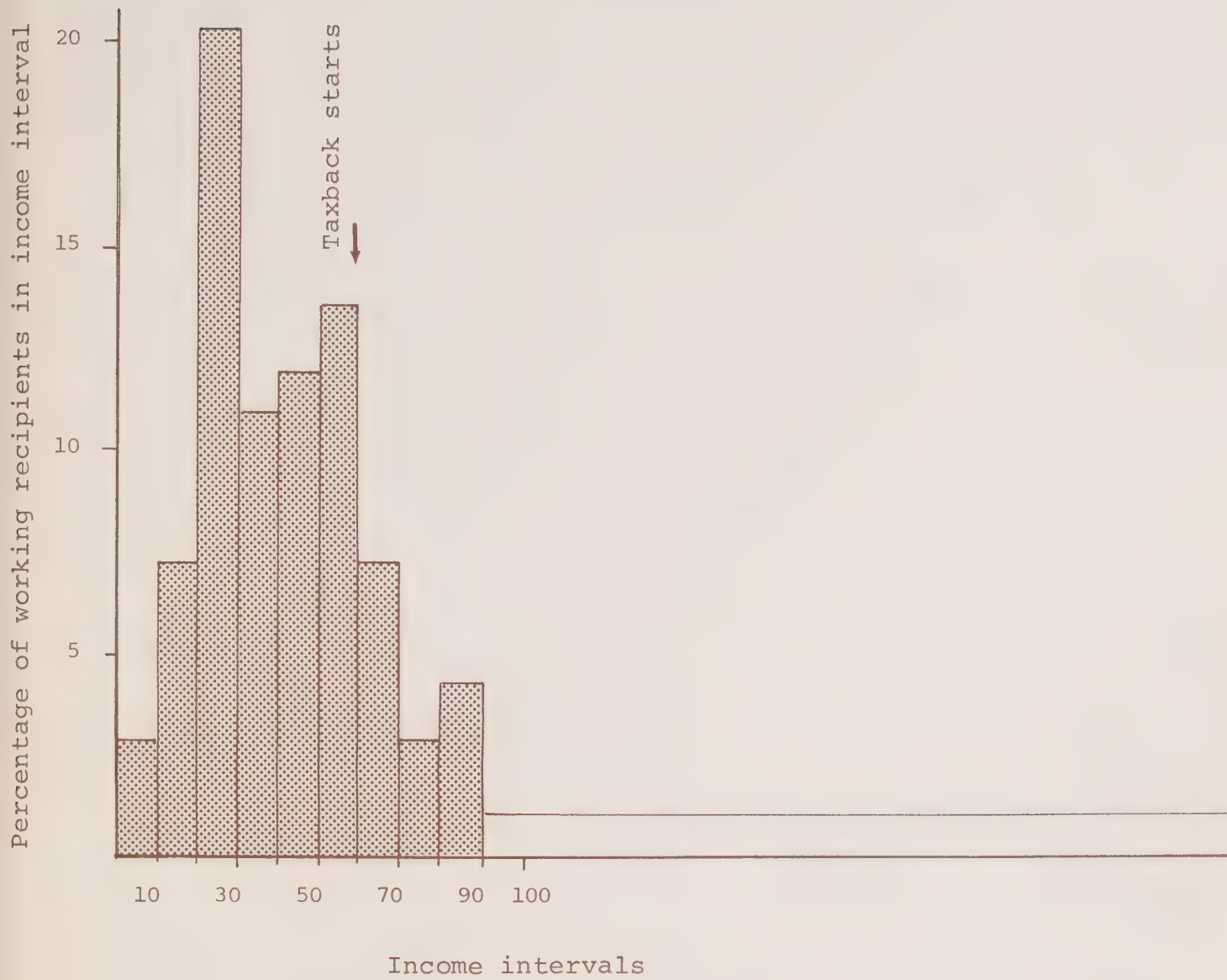




Fig. (5)

Percentage of working recipients in various income intervals for family size 1.



## Appendix 3

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Brief to the  
Ontario Human Rights  
Commission

**Subject:**  
**The Human Rights Code**

September 9, 1976

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## Preamble

The Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped was established by Order-In-Council on February 5, 1975. Its mandate is:

- (1) to review present government policies and programs which affect the physically handicapped (e.g., education, employment, rehabilitation, income maintenance, health services, housing, transportation and recreation).
- (2) to make recommendations to the Ontario Government with the aim of improving policies and programs affecting the physically handicapped.
- (3) to promote the opportunities of the physically handicapped to create and participate in self-help programs so that each handicapped person may have maximum opportunities for determining his own style of life.

The Council sees both the legislative provisions of the Ontario Human Rights Code and the educational programs of the Ontario Human Rights Commission as being potentially of considerable benefit to handicapped persons in Ontario, and it is for this reason that this brief is being presented tonight.

## Introduction

Physically handicapped persons want essentially the same things out of life as do non-handicapped persons. They wish to participate in the life of their community and they desire access to the services, commodities and facilities of that community. They wish both to contribute to the growth and development of their society and to receive the benefits which that society has to offer.

Opportunities for the physically handicapped person to achieve these goals are affected greatly by the degree to which public attitudes favour the integration of people with physical handicaps into various facets of society. While public attitudes have, in recent years, become more favourable towards this integration, it is of considerable concern to Council that discrimination against the handicapped still occurs.

The Code is designed to prevent discrimination against certain classes of people in certain areas of day-to-day living. It covers three areas: employment, accommodation and the use of public facilities and services. Since the physically handicapped are not included in the Code as a class of people against whom discrimination may not be practised, they have no legal recourse if they encounter discrimination in any of these areas\*.

Discrimination may have extremely serious repercussions on the life of a physically handicapped person

when it affects his opportunities for employment, for it is through employment that a physically handicapped person can best achieve the goal of financial independence, ending or at least reducing this reliance on various forms of government support. Discrimination against the physically handicapped person who wishes to rent or purchase accommodation otherwise accessible to him or who wishes to use the services of public facilities such as restaurants, hotels or bars otherwise accessible to him is also of considerable concern to Council for such discrimination clearly militates against the efforts of a physically handicapped person to participate fully in these aspects of community living.

It is important to note that the Council, in presenting this brief, does not seek preferential treatment for the handicapped. Just as no person shall be denied employment on the basis of a physical handicap, neither should any person be granted employment solely on this basis unless the fact of the handicap is, in itself, a necessary or desirable qualification for the job. While it is recognized that affirmative action programs may be necessary for the next few years in order to compensate for past instances of discrimination against the physically handicapped, such programs should be undertaken with caution.

As well, it is recognized that certain jobs require specific physical attributes. For example, it will probably be required of an applicant for a radio announcer's job that he speak in a clear and articulate manner. If a person with a speech impediment is refused this job, this should not be construed as discrimination. Rather, the employer is exercising his prerogative to refuse employment to an applicant not having a necessary qualification for the particular position.

In this brief, Council makes three recommendations. These pertain to the inclusion of the category "physically handicapped" into the Ontario Human Rights Code as a grounds for non-discrimination and the implementation of this change. Two supplementary proposals appear at the conclusion of this brief; these pertain to general changes in the Code as it presently stands.

\*The recent enactment of the *Blind Persons' Rights Act* allows a blind person accompanied by a dog to enter a public place. A blind person not accompanied by a dog guide, however, could — under present law — be refused admittance or service.



# Recommendations

The Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped proposes that:

- (1) **THE CLASS “PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED” SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS CODE AS A GROUNDS FOR NON-DISCRIMINATION AND SHOULD APPEAR IN ALL SECTIONS OF THE CODE LISTING THE GROUNDS FOR NON-DISCRIMINATION.**

## Rationale

Many jobs can be efficiently performed by persons with any number of physical handicaps. Decisions concerning all aspects of employment (e.g. advertising, hiring, promotion) should be made solely on the basis of “relevant considerations”, i.e. the requirements of a job and the qualifications of the applicant. Equally, whether an individual is permitted to buy or rent accommodation or to use public facilities and services should depend on whether that individual meets the requirements which non-handicapped users or purchasers of the service must meet.

- (2) **PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS SHOULD HAVE SOME INPUT INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATION (1) ABOVE.**

## Rationale

In the design of a program to investigate complaints of discriminatory practices against physically handicapped people, those responsible for its implementation should have considerable knowledge and experience with handicapped people to ensure that they are aware of the very real potential of this group. In many cases physically handicapped persons themselves best meet these criteria. Input from handicapped persons could be sought by appointing a handicapped person as a Commissioner, by hiring handicapped persons as Human Rights Officers or by seeking the input of handicapped persons into any advisory committee which might be set up to implement Recommendation (1) above.

- (3) **THE ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SHOULD CONDUCT AN INTENSIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE MANY CAPABILITIES OF PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS.**

## Rationale

In many cases, discriminatory practices against the physically handicapped are caused more by lack of

awareness than by any actual hostility toward this group. Generally speaking, the public has little awareness concerning the nature of various handicapping conditions. For example, an employer may be unaware of the very real potential of persons with various physical handicaps to perform capably in any number of job situations. It is clearly necessary to educate the public in order to lessen discrimination caused by ignorance.

# Supplementary proposals

- (1) **Onus of Proof**

The recommendation of a number of groups submitting briefs that the onus of proof should be transferred from the complainant to the respondent is one which requires extremely careful consideration on the part of the Commission. Since in other facets of our legal system the onus is not on the accused to prove his innocence, Council feels that to change the present locus of onus would be an extremely serious step and urges caution upon the Commission in its consideration of such a change.

- (2) **Mandate of the Commission**

Presently the Human Rights Code covers discrimination only in the following areas: employment, accommodation and access to public facilities and services. The mandate of the Ontario Human Rights Commission should be broadened so that all areas in which discrimination occurs are covered, to ensure that a consistent policy of non-discrimination in all areas of day-to-day living is clearly established.

Recommendations on

**the provision of  
assistive devices for the  
physically handicapped**

May 1976

Assistive devices is a general term, including prosthetic and orthotic devices and other aids essential to assist disabled persons to function effectively in terms of mobility, communication and the like in the home, place of work or community. Prosthetic devices are designed to compensate for anatomical deficiencies. Orthotic devices support existing structures without replacing them. Artificial limbs are examples of the former, spinal braces of the latter.

Under current Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) policies, prosthetic devices are paid for provided that they are inserted into the human body as are artificial hips and cardiac pacemakers, etc. If they are externally fitted as is the case of artificial limbs and braces, they are not.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE PROVISIONS OF OHIP BE AMENDED SO THAT:**

- (1) major external prosthetic, orthotic and other essential assistive devices be furnished as an insured benefit where such devices are prescribed by medical or other authorized personnel (e.g. designated members of an allied health discipline), and are furnished through approved facilities and persons
- (2) in addition to the cost of the devices, the cost of related skilled services be met
- (3) the same provisions be extended to the replacement or repair of such devices.

The definition of services to be provided should be carefully considered and a schedule, comparable to a schedule of fees, should be developed, setting forth those devices to be included. This schedule should include, inter alia, prosthetic devices, orthotic devices (including shoes) and other functional aids such as wheelchairs and crutches.

At present, people receiving certain income maintenance payments, or certain residential services funded by government are entitled, under these programs, to receive essential assistive devices and related services without charge. Examples of such programs are: Family Benefits Assistance (FBA), the Guaranteed Annual Income Supplement (GAINS or GAINS-D), Rehabilitation Services and Homes for the Aged Residential Services. If certain of the devices and services presently allowed to recipients or users of these programs are not included, for whatever reason, in the schedule mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the Government should continue to provide those items excluded if they are presently allowable under current programs. The intent of this is to ensure that no individual will lose that to which he is entitled under a program presently in effect.

None of the foregoing recommendations apply to persons eligible for these devices and related services under the Workmen's Compensation Board or the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Funds required for the implementation of the above recommendations would be derived in part from the transfer of certain funds to OHIP from other areas of government presently providing these devices and services, and in part would require the provision of new funds to OHIP.

The intent of the foregoing paper is to present broad policy recommendations for consideration. While these recommendations are general in tenor, the Council realizes that, before they can be implemented, certain administrative questions raised by the recommendations would have to be considered. Among these are the following:

- (1) What devices (prosthetic, orthotic and other functional aids) should be included in the schedule?
- (2) What is the definition of an "essential" assistive device?
- (3) How may persons or facilities best be authorized to furnish the types of prosthetic, orthotic or other assistive devices to be covered under the proposed program?

Constant vigilance would be required in the areas of research, development and evaluation in order to establish and maintain high standards and to make effective uses of technological advances.

Because the Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped is aware that the recommendations in the above paper raise certain administrative questions, a working committee of Council might be formed to directly assist the Ministry of Health in resolving these questions.









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# Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped



**Third  
Annual Report**



Ontario



*Cover:*

More than 250 people attended the first Public Forum held by the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped in Kingston City Hall on September 22, 1977.

*Photo: Bill Baird, Kingston*

**Third Annual Report of the  
Ontario Advisory Council  
on the Physically Handicapped  
for the twelve-month period  
ending March 31, 1978**



Ontario

Further copies of this report may be obtained at:  
Ontario Government Bookstore  
880 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario  
or by writing to:  
Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped  
3rd floor, 700 Bay Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1Z6





The Honourable Margaret Birch  
Provincial Secretary for Social Development

It is with much pleasure that I submit the Third Annual Report of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped, covering its activities for the 12 months ended March 31, 1978.



Andrew C. Clarke  
Chairman, February 1977-

# Organization and aims of the Council

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The Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped was established on February 5, 1975 by an Order-in-Council approved by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. The Council consists of a Chairman and not more than 20 other members who are drawn from across the province. Over half of the members are physically handicapped and all have had experience with agencies or organizations serving the needs of the handicapped.

The mandate of the Council is to advise the Government of Ontario through the Provincial Secretary for Social Development on matters pertaining to the well-being of physically handicapped persons. Its aims include the following:

- (a) to review present government policies and programs affecting the physically handicapped in the areas of education, employment, rehabilitation, income maintenance, health services, housing, transportation, recreation etc.
- (b) to make recommendations to the Ontario Government with the object of improving policies and programs affecting the physically handicapped
- (c) to promote the opportunities for the physically handicapped to create and participate in self-help programs so that each handicapped person may determine to the maximum his or her own lifestyle.

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# Membership of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped

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Andrew C. Clarke, Chairman	Willowdale	Clare R. Millar	Cambridge
Gerald W. Cronin	Sudbury	William J. Orr	St. Catharines
Walter H. Davis (resigned)	Willowdale	Bluebell Planck	Oakville
Lois Harte-Maxwell	Peterborough	Heather Rankin	Willowdale
Albin T. Jousse	Toronto	Maurice Richard	Kapuskasing
John Kellerman	Toronto	Jackie Rodger	Toronto
Stewart E. Kingstone	St. Catharines	Robert L. Rumball (retired)	Caledon
David G. Koivisto	Thunder Bay	Mary Sayons	Ottawa
Nellie Lemon	Cochesque	William Watson	Keswick
Jack W. Longman	Windsor	Marian Webb	Kingston
Douglas F. Manuel	Oshawa	John Yorke	West Hill
Margaret McLeod (retired)	Toronto		

The following members served on Ad Hoc Committees as noted during the year ending March 31, 1978:

**BUILDING STANDARDS**

Clare Millar — Chairman  
Gerald Cronin  
David Koivisto  
Mary Sayons

*Representatives to committee:*

Peter Ferguson  
E.S. Martin Construction Ltd.  
  
Hart Frank, MRAIC  
Adviser, Building Code Branch  
Ministry of Consumer and  
Commercial Relations

Lyle Pringle  
Coordinator for the Handicapped  
Borough of Etobicoke

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

Andrew Clarke — Chairman  
Stewart Kingstone

**PUBLICITY**

Jack Longman — Chairman  
Bluebell Planck  
Mary Sayons  
Marian Webb

**REHABILITATION**

Dr. Albin Jousse — Chairman  
Walter Davis  
Bluebell Planck  
Marian Webb

**SPECIAL NEEDS OF  
PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN**

Dr. William Orr — Chairman  
Nellie Lemon  
Margaret McLeod  
Heather Rankin

**TRANSPORTATION**

Jack Longman — Chairman  
Mary Sayons

*Representatives to committee:*

Margaret Elliott  
Ontario March of Dimes, London

Margaret Young  
Ontario Crippled Children's Centre,  
Toronto

## Chairman's remarks

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The period April 1977 to March 1978 has been an extremely busy one, as the activities of the Council set out in this report will attest to.

Certainly, the highlight of the year was the visit by the Advisory Council to the city of Kingston. A large number of physically handicapped individuals and others attended our Public Forum during the evening of Thursday, September 22, which was held in Kingston's beautifully restored and easily accessible City Hall.

The Council had invited written submissions in advance of the Forum and the evening offered an opportunity for verbal presentation and discussion on several issues of concern to the handicapped who, on this occasion, had been drawn from a broad surrounding area. The Forum served to introduce local residents to the Council in an attempt to make them aware of its functions and its role with Government. As well, it gave Council members an opportunity to learn firsthand of the problems and concerns of a regionally defined group.

Information gleaned from the submissions and presentations was of particular importance to committees of Council in the formulation of recommendations. The visit included a regular Council meeting, dinner with dignitaries and side trips to a rehabilitation centre, a children's centre, hospitals and a group-living arrangement.

We are most grateful to Marian Webb who undertook the total organization and who, working with a local committee, was responsible for the turnout to the Forum and the success of the visit.

My new office with the Canadian Paraplegic Association has brought with it greater demands on my time. In fairness to both organizations, I may unfortunately be faced soon with having to make a decision on the feasibility of continuing in my role as

Chairman of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped. I welcomed the opportunity of serving as a member for two years and was honoured at the appointment as Chairman for this past year.

It is one of the most difficult decisions I have had to make in my years of working with the handicapped. My term on the Council has been, for me, most rewarding and educational. Having input to a policy-making level and being able to affect legislation and regulations directly is reassurance that government can work for the people. By the same token, Council has learned to understand — and reluctantly appreciate — the necessity for the slow pace at which change is brought about.



Andrew C. Clarke  
Chairman  
February 1977-

## Executive Officer's comments

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This report marks the completion of the third year of operation by the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped and is intended as an outline of the various issues addressed by the Council during that year and the subsequent actions taken. The reader will appreciate that, in many instances, the follow-up is continuous. As well, this report reflects upon recommendations made and positions established during previous years.

In reviewing the activities of the Advisory Council it will become immediately apparent that the Council and its committees have undertaken to research and resolve a vast number of problems. The work — its rewards and frustrations — is ongoing. Hardly am I about to propose that the reader attempt to tally the Council's accomplishments.

The recent amputee, along with all of his other newfound problems, still has to concern himself with how he will pay for the costly prosthetic device. And it is little consolation to the severely handicapped woman in Cornwall, who is unable to get to regular clinical appointments, to learn that the Government is involved in the support of a pilot transportation project in Metropolitan Toronto. The family whose daughter has been seriously injured in an auto accident will have difficulty understanding why, when her stay in the rehabilitation centre is complete, there is no alternative but to place her in a nursing home with a resident population averaging 75 years of age.

To these individuals and countless others who may be incurring difficulties with the present 'system', their problem is immediate. And there is small comfort in their knowing that the Advisory Council has put forward numerous recommendations to the provincial government and is constantly monitoring their progress.

The Council will continue to work toward achieving a lifestyle for the physically handicapped which is, at the very least, equal with that of other residents of Ontario.



Gerald F. Clarke  
Executive Officer



# Activities of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped, April 1977-March 1978

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As the Council became more visible in the year under review through holding its first Public Forum, publishing a pamphlet on its structure and operation, and exposure in the media, an increasing number of concerns affecting physically handicapped people was brought to its attention.

The Advisory Council pursued its many areas of interest with determination and had the satisfaction of hearing, for example, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario stating in the Speech from the Throne, February 21, 1978 “. . . the Government will move to protect the rights of the physically handicapped.” Considerable input had been given by the Council and other groups concerned with physically handicapped individuals to the report issued by the Human Rights Code Review Committee, ‘Life Together: A Report on Human Rights in Ontario.’

A more direct example of the Council’s influence is the cooperation by Bell Canada in adopting a universal coin telephone height of 54” (floor to coin slot) in Ontario and Quebec.

Arising out of recommendations by the Council’s Ad Hoc Committee on Accommodation and Support Services, the Cabinet Committee on Social Development appointed a Working Group with specific terms of reference which would allow the Ontario Government to review the issue of housing and supportive services for the disabled from a very broad viewpoint.

The foregoing examples are but highlights from a very significant year in the life of the Council. The following report provides a summary of that year’s activities.

## MAJOR ISSUES STUDIED

### Accommodation and support services

In our second annual report, reference was made to the appointment of an interministerial working group charged with the responsibility of reviewing the recommendations of the Council’s Ad Hoc Committee on Accommodation and Support Services’ report — ‘Integration, Independence and Interdependence for the Physically Handicapped in Ontario — a Policy Focus for the Province’ — presented to the Honourable Margaret Birch on May 27, 1976. The working group, chaired by David Pitt, Rehabilitation Branch, Ministry of Community and Social Services, was to seek the input and advice of members of the Council in developing policy proposals. Following a meeting between Mr. Pitt and the Council’s Executive

Officer on May 5, 1977, members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Accommodation and Support Services and, later, all Council members were asked to submit specific case examples to back up each of the recommendations within its report. A considerable volume of case histories was supplied by members and agencies with which they are connected.

In addition, Mr. Pitt requested individual Council members to attend the working group’s meetings on two specific issues — a survey of need pertaining directly to the recommendations by the Council and the situation with regard to support services. Committee Chairman Jack Longman and Executive Officer Gerald Clarke met with the working group on July 14 and were encouraged by their apparent concern and desire to come up with recommendations for the Cabinet. Reporting on the meeting, Mr. Longman said “Costs will have to be established, with a top limit set, taking all factors into account — not just vocational issues — as the Council had pointed out in its report. Costs will not go down just by taking people out of institutions and putting them into apartments with support services. The institutions are still there, with others replacing those moved out. Our position was that *new* institutions do not have to be built.”

On September 8, committee member John Kellerman met with Mr. Pitt’s group to discuss the availability and delivery of support services, particularly through municipal government. Mr. Kellerman has been frustrated in his efforts to have his needs for housing with support services met over the past six years. The working group intended to use his and other situations to highlight the kinds of policy recommendations they would need to make.

At the Council’s meeting on February 24, 1978, a group of severely handicapped persons known as GOAL (Get out and live) presented their concerns regarding the lack of suitable accommodation and support services. Invited to hear their presentation were Peter Crichton, Director, Rehabilitation Branch, Ministry of Community and Social Services, and Mr. Pitt who is Program Coordinator, Adult Residential Services and Information Systems. During the ensuing discussion, Mr. Pitt said the working group had finished the first draft of its report and was focussing on one aspect of continuing services — the demonstration projects which are now under a temporary form of funding. If approved, the report will provide for a permanent funding arrangement for accommodation and support services.



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There are a number of complexities involved, Mr. Pitt said — paramount in their minds is the combination of goals demonstrated by the projects. These goals are — self-contained living for the handicapped person; privacy for the handicapped person; the option for apartment-style living, while recognizing the value of the group home — back to the original objective of integration; the option of rent supplements to the physically handicapped; ensuring the handicapped person has the mechanics to pay for own rent, buy own groceries; and try to ensure that the handicapped person generating income is enabled to retain the incentive factor to gain partial or fulltime earnings.

Mr. Pitt said the Ministry has a set of financial objectives. In trying to achieve its social objectives, it will not lose sight of its financial objectives which may include cost-sharing with the federal government. Because of these kinds of factors, Mr. Pitt said, it takes time to develop the right mix. He expected the working group's report to be completed before the end of April and presented to Mrs. Birch.

### **Proposed special unit within Ministry of Housing**

On April 4, 1977, the Council had made a recommendation to the Minister of Housing through the Honourable Margaret Birch that a special unit should be set up within the Ministry of Housing to deal specifically with the needs of the physically handicapped for housing and related services. Although Mrs. Birch had promptly passed the recommendation on to her colleague and the Council followed up on it several times during the year, no definite action resulted by the end of the term this report covers.

### **CMHC pilot proposal**

Chairman Andrew Clarke attended a meeting on May 5, 1977 called by Jack Sarney, Executive Director of the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled (CRCD) at the request of George Devine, Housing Management Coordinator, Social Housing Division, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). The meeting was convened to discuss a pilot proposal by CMHC regarding housing for the disadvantaged and was attended, in addition to those already mentioned, by

representatives from the Ontario March of Dimes, the Ontario Federation for the Physically Handicapped and CMHC staff. CMHC was concerned that it was taking steering committees and boards of special purpose housing groups too long to get their projects to the loan commitment stage and the failure rate is too high. In order to assess the situation, CMHC staff were focussing on the ALPHA project in Windsor and a project for the retarded in the Maritimes, both of which are receiving some funding from CMHC. They hope to find out if CMHC can take a more active role in helping housing groups see ahead to the management aspects of special purpose housing and help bring management perspectives to newly formed boards. The study would be carried to the point of developing a small pilot project training course or seminars for boards, staff members and residents but not beyond that. CMHC would be looking to CRCD and the National Institute for Mental Retardation to further develop and carry on these training courses. The proposal was received with great enthusiasm, Mr. Clarke reported, and the next phase is awaited with much interest.

### **OFPH brief on housing and supportive services**

In his capacity as Chairman of the Advisory Council, Andrew Clarke was invited by Mrs. Birch to attend a meeting of a number of Cabinet Ministers on September 29, 1977 at which the Ontario Federation for the Physically Handicapped was presenting their Brief on Housing and Supportive Services. The brief called for a coordinated scheme of housing and support services for the handicapped in every community in Ontario. It put the emphasis, not on nursing homes and hospitals, but on independent living. In summary, the brief wants employment opportunities for the disabled, with subsidies for extra nursing and home help care; subsidized housing units for the handicapped in all Ontario Housing Corporation buildings; home help and nursing services to the disabled who need them; meals-on-wheels for disabled persons who can't cook their own, paid for by the Ontario Government; and revisions to the Ontario Building Code to make public buildings more accessible to the handicapped. Overall, the brief reinforces the Council's recommendations to the Government in April 1976 — 'Integration, Independence and Interdependence for the Physically Handicapped in Ontario — a Policy Focus for the Province' although it differs in some specifics.

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## Suitable accommodation with support services for the severely handicapped

The Council had been becoming increasingly aware of the problems severely handicapped individuals faced in finding suitable accommodation. More and more, they were being forced into chronic-care situations with a subsequent loss of independence and increase of frustration. As mentioned earlier, a group of severely handicapped young persons known as GOAL (Get out and live) attended the Council's meeting on February 24, 1978 to present their growing concern about the difficulty of finding suitable accommodation and support services. Some of them were afraid of not being able to go out to work while living in a chronic-care institution and might even have to go on welfare. One was in the position of being in a chronic-care hospital and because of staffing problems — one nurse for 20 patients — was unable to leave for work till 10 in the morning. By the time Wheel-Trans delivered her to her place of employment, it was quite late.

Clarendon House is providing one answer to the problem but it can't accommodate everyone. Jane Staub, a director of the Clarendon project, told the Council that members of GOAL had sought assistance from Clarendon with support services for them in their own apartments. However, there was a freeze on funding for support services, Mrs. Staub said, which she found difficult to understand. Clarendon had requested funds from the government for expansion but had been turned down twice. Mrs. Staub did appreciate the fact that the Government of Ontario was working with the private sector by funding the support services in the Clarendon House demonstration project. As a basis for comparing costs, the Council was informed that the approved budget for support services at Clarendon is \$19.80 per day per tenant (actual cost \$18.75 per day), the cost per individual per day at Lyndhurst Hospital is \$98.55 and chronic care costs \$58 per day.

Pamela Kernaghan of the Cheshire Homes Foundation reinforced Mrs. Staub's analysis of the situation that there are more potential residents for their group homes than accommodation available. They have also been discouraged by the lack of government funds and find it difficult to raise the money privately.

Peter Crichton, whose Ministry of Community and Social Services had agreed to fund support services in four demonstration housing projects, was asked to inform the Council on the

development of a policy arising out of those projects. Mr. Crichton said they would not have any conclusions till March 1979. They are taking a look at feasibility and cost factors as well as the model of service delivered. They are also considering through which mechanism the service will be delivered — is there an existing piece of legislation to cover it or is new legislation required?

Considerable dissatisfaction was expressed by Council members, guests and observers at the slow-moving process of government and the need for action in providing support services for the severely handicapped. Mr. Crichton said that only the politicians can answer some of the questions. Some issues are more complex — the trade-off of dollars is not that simple, to close down one facility and develop another. The economic situation is also a considerable factor. It is not simply a question, he said, of launching a new program — not everyone can make use of the apartment-style model. Mr. Crichton said that the Government's long-range objective is that anyone, physically handicapped or not, can live where they want. Their medium-range objective is maintaining existing types of accommodation and short-range they're talking about the Clarendon type of project.

*(Editor's note: The Chairman reported at the March 31st meeting of the Council that Mrs. Birch was going to meet with the GOAL group at Lyndhurst Hospital, along with the Honourable Keith Norton and the Honourable Dennis Timbrell.)*

## Rights of physically handicapped persons living in chronic-care institutions

A further discussion on the accommodation and support services' situation was held at the Council's meeting on March 31, 1978. The primary concern was the right of physically handicapped persons living in chronic-care institutions to go out to work or for educational purposes. Assisting the Council in its deliberations was Miss M.A. Winter, Senior Rehabilitation Consultant, Consulting Services Branch, Ministry of Health. Chairman Andrew Clarke had made Mrs. Birch aware of the situation of a paraplegic living in Queen Elizabeth Hospital and under the impression that after he completed his education he would not be able to continue in that accommodation when he found work. Mrs. Birch wrote to the Honourable Dennis Timbrell, Minister of Health, for clarification of the requirements of



chronic hospitals and nursing homes in relation to the effect they have on the retraining and employment opportunities for the physically handicapped but a final answer had not been received at the time of writing this report.

Miss Winter told the Council that there was no prohibition of going out to work while a person lives in a hospital. Council's Executive Officer had also reviewed the Charitable Institutions Act and found no restriction on residents going out to work or school. However, Miss Winter said this appears to be open to interpretation by each individual institution, with the result that some places allow residents to go out and others do not. She said the Ministry's legal branch was looking at the whole question and a report would be made to the Council at a later meeting.

*(Editor's note: Dr. G.P. Skelhorne, Consultant for Extended Care, Ministry of Health and Miss Winter attended the Council's meeting on May 26, 1978. Dr. Skelhorne said his legal branch recommended changing the Hospitals Act — a patient could leave the hospital for certain hours for remunerative work and return for meals, treatment and sleep. He suggested the Council might consider recommending amending the regulations, which would not take as long to accomplish, as well as the Hospitals Act. Dr. Skelhorne said there is no provision in the Health Insurance Act which would permit any patient receiving extended-care services in a nursing home to go out to work and return for care, meals and sleep. The method of achieving a change in that situation would differ from that of the chronic-care hospital and Dr. Skelhorne suggested the Council address its proposal to its Minister and let it take its course.)*

## Building standards

As the Ad Hoc Committee on Building Standards, struck by the Council in March 1977, continued to examine Part 5 of the Ontario Building Code (Building Requirements for Handicapped Persons), they found themselves faced with an almost monumental job in trying to ensure that all loopholes were covered and the Code would be interpreted properly. In considering their amendments, the committee took into account material from The President's Committee on the Handicapped (U.S.A.); Ontario March of Dimes; Working Committee of the Mayor's Task Force (Toronto); Borough of North York; part of the presentation to the Toronto Transit Commission by the Coalition on Usable Transportation; Lyle Pringle, Coordinator for the Handicapped,

Borough of Etobicoke; Peter Ferguson, Chairman, E.S. Martin Construction Ltd. and Graham Adams, Director of the Ontario Building Code Branch, Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

The committee also applied their own evaluation of suggested changes to the Code and examined the following documents to give them as broad a picture as possible before reaching decisions: Building Standards for the Handicapped 1977 (Supplement No. 5 to the National Building Code of Canada), the Quebec Building Code, the 1975 Report of the Sub-Committee on Building Requirements for Handicapped Persons (Ontario), the British Columbia Building Code, the City of Vancouver Building By-law No. 4702, the North Carolina State Building Code, 'Accessibility Modifications' published by the North Carolina Department of Insurance and 'Housing the Handicapped' published by the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Considerable input was received from various experts as well as the Council Chairman and staff members.

On September 26, 1977 a working draft of the committee's proposed revisions to Part 5 of the Ontario Building Code was sent to all Council members with the request that they be prepared to finalize the submission at the October 28 meeting. However, with the large number of items and the considerable amount of detail involved, the Council decided after almost 2½ hours' discussion of the changes to refer the matter back to the Ad Hoc Committee on Building Standards for final drafting. At the Council's meeting on March 31, 1978, Committee Chairman Clare Millar said they were having illustrations done to clarify certain requirements. He anticipated the final draft would be ready for presentation to Council at its June meeting.

*(Editor's note: The Council unanimously approved the committee's final report at its meeting on May 26, 1978, with the understanding that the illustrations were still to be finalized. On August 1, Council Chairman Andrew Clarke forwarded the report to the Honourable Margaret Birch for transmittal to the Honourable Larry Grossman, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, recommending that he be urged to take the necessary steps toward revising Part 5 of the Building Code, Ontario Regulation 925/75 to include the proposed amendments.*

In addition, Mr. Clarke wrote: "Realizing that with the adoption of these proposed amendments, difficulty may still be incurred by physically handicapped individuals in overcoming possible

obstacles before actually reaching some buildings, we would, therefore, recommend that you urge your colleagues, the Minister of Housing and the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs, that the Planning Act, Ontario Regulation 57/76, be amended to assure that physically handicapped individuals are provided with easy access to the many building types listed in Table 5.2.1.A of our proposed amendments from adjacent lands, streets, sidewalks and parking areas.

"The Advisory Council contends that these proposed amendments would go a long way toward enabling physically handicapped citizens of the Province of Ontario to have fuller use of buildings — their services, facilities and employment opportunities — which have, too often to date, been denied them. It is Council's belief that the adoption of these proposed reasonable amendments to The Building Code and to The Planning Act would not inconvenience anyone but rather, in some instances, be more convenient for everyone."

### Universal height for pay telephones

As the result of a presentation by J.S. Cruden, Staff Supervisor, Public Affairs, Bell Canada to the Ad Hoc Committee on Building Standards, the Council as a whole became involved in the question of the most suitable height for pay telephones used by both physically handicapped and able-bodied persons. Mr. Cruden and W.L. Curtis, District Coin Telephone Manager, attended the Council's July 28 meeting with the intent of gaining its recommendation and support for a universal height of pay telephone.

Introducing the subject, Mr. Cruden referred to correspondence the Executive Officer of the Council had had with his department in July 1976, when Mr. Clarke had forwarded a report prepared for Bell Canada and the Council on pay phone styles and locations. Mr. Cruden said they were interested in working with the Council regarding the height of coin telephones. A growing social consciousness on the part of his company, Mr. Curtis said, had resulted in their putting in lower-height sets, particularly in large use areas. In establishing guidelines for a coin telephone height suitable for use by physically disabled people, they were aware of Supplement No. 5 to the National Building Code.

Now they wanted to consider a universal height usable by both able-bodied and physically disabled persons, Mr. Curtis said. In the United States, a valid study had been done by A.T. & T. on such

a height, in which the usage by both groups was assessed in nine major U.S. metropolitan areas. The overall results were that a coin slot at a height of 54" to 56" can be reached by most users in wheelchairs as well as by able-bodied persons. It was also found to be more convenient for a large majority of females, Mr. Curtis said, and children 7-11 can use it. They were recommending, therefore, that 54" or 56" (distance from floor to coin slot) be adopted jointly by Bell Canada and the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped as the universal height for all future coin telephone installations.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Building Standards thereafter met with Bell Canada representatives, Russ Donaldson and Ian Metcalfe, and presented its recommendations to Council at the August 25 meeting. After lengthy discussion over whether the final recommendation from Council would specify 56" to coin slot as the desired height or strive for the 54" height being used in a number of American cities by A.T. & T. as the best, the following motion was unanimously passed and conveyed to Mr. Curtis by letter:

*That the Council recommend to Bell Canada that coin telephones — present and future installations — be mounted at a height of 56" maximum to the coin slot; further, that a height of 54" is preferred by the physically handicapped and should be the ultimate goal;*

(The Council recognizes the difficulties which would be incurred in attempting to position the present type of equipment at 54", therefore we further recommend that with the redesign of pay telephone equipment or the introduction of other existing designs into the Bell Canada system, the preferred 54" height be adopted as universal.)

*and further, that there be no obstruction or condition which would prevent a person in a wheelchair using pay telephones in a normal manner.*

In a letter dated November 15, Mr. Curtis informed the Council of Bell Canada's preliminary plans for implementation of a universal height for pay telephones in Ontario:

- New installations for wall-mounted pay telephones (no associated shelf, table etc.) will be installed at the 54" height (floor to coin slot)
- New installations for indoor pay telephones utilizing an enclosure compatible to a lower height (shelf/directory not a barrier to wheelchair manoeuvrability) will be installed at 54" - 56"



- New installations for outdoor pay telephones will reflect greater utilization of an open enclosure designed for a 54" height

During March 1978, the Executive Officer arranged for a group of disabled persons to meet with Bell Canada representatives in their offices at 393 University Avenue, Toronto where a sample installation had been made of coin telephones at varying heights. The group found that the installation at 54" to the coin slot was suitable for a person in a wheelchair and the Ontario Division of Bell would proceed to implement that height.

*(Editor's note: Mr. Curtis wrote the Council on June 6, 1978, as follows — "The following statement was issued on May 3, 1978 within Bell Canada: 'Starting immediately, Coin Sales will negotiate all new coin telephone installations to be installed at a height of 54" (floor to coin slot). Exceptions may be encountered where the lower height is not feasible e.g. adding a station to an existing bank of telephones and the nature of the supporting wall does not accommodate the lower height, Acrylic and Airlight outdoor booth installations etc.; however, these will be minority situations. At this time, existing installations (61") will not be converted unless other major changes are being planned. Associated coin telephone furniture, e.g. shelves, tables, booths, etc. will be manufactured to be compatible with the new universal height. It is also our intent to pursue changes in the building codes that will remove the reference to 48" and replace with a standard of 54".'*

"We take this opportunity to thank the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped," Mr. Curtis's letter concludes, "for the cooperation and assistance given in the assessment phases for the universal height issue."

## Regional seminar on the Ontario Building Code

The Action League of Physically Handicapped Adults in London, Ontario sought the guidance of the Council and its Ad Hoc Committee on Building Standards in convening a seminar of individuals, groups and agency personnel throughout the Southwestern Ontario area who are interested in promoting further accessibility provisions for the physically handicapped within their communities. James R. Hunsberger, Community Development Officer with the Ontario March of Dimes in London, met with the Building Standards Committee and arranged for its Chairman, Clare Millar, and Hart Frank, Building

Code Adviser, to act as resource persons at the seminar on February 18, 1978 at Fanshawe College, London.

Approximately 70 delegates attended the seminar, funded by a Secretary of State grant, and 30 resolutions from four discussion groups were passed at the closing plenary session. The discussion groups covered the following building types included in Part 5 of the Ontario Building Code: assembly, government and office, retail and commercial, and residential. Each discussion group chose two representatives to form a follow-up committee in order that the resolutions may be acted upon. This committee is to forward all recommendations to the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped.

## Human rights

The Canadian Human Rights Act (Bill C-25) had been discussed at the Council's final meeting of the 1976-77 year. Noting that the proposed legislation referred to the physically handicapped only in matters related to employment, the Council expressed its concern in letters to the federal government's Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, the Minister of Justice, the Leader of the Government in the Senate and the Chairmen of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs and Health, Welfare and Science Committees of the Senate. In addition to a favourable response from each, promising to take the Council's comments into consideration before final adoption of the bill, the Honourable Ron Basford, Minister of Justice, pointed out in a letter dated June 6, 1977 that he was aware of the problems faced by the physically handicapped in the areas of services, facilities and accommodation.

To attempt to meet these problems, Mr. Basford wrote, a duty is placed on the Human Rights Commission, under paragraph 22(1)(h) to encourage the development and improvement of arrangements for the physically handicapped in the areas mentioned. It is expected the Commission will play an active role in obtaining improved facilities for the handicapped. Mr. Basford encouraged the Council to make representations to the Commission on the problems faced by the physically handicapped and recommend to the Commission the type of action it could take to improve facilities for this group of people. He also noted that if the approach to the providers of services, facilities and accommodation by means of information and

persuasion does not prove to be effective, it will be open to the Commission to recommend to Parliament that appropriate amendments be made to the legislation. Mr. Basford's letter concluded: "I am very sympathetic to the problems faced by the physically handicapped and appreciate having had a chance to consider the views of your association."

### **'Life Together: A Report on Human Rights in Ontario'**

Council Chairman Andrew Clarke wrote as follows to Thomas H.B. Symons, Chairman of the Ontario Human Rights Commission: "At the regularly scheduled meeting of Council held on July 28, 1977, the members requested that I write you in commendation of 'Life Together: A Report on Human Rights in Ontario'. Council members were pleased with the insight shown by the Code Review Committee into the problems faced by the physically handicapped in areas of discrimination or thoughtlessness on the part of society. In particular, they were pleased with the recommendations that the Ontario Human Rights Code include explicit reference to the right of access to the community's facilities for people who are physically disabled; that physical disability be included as a prohibited ground of discrimination in each of the areas covered by the new Code; and with the comments regarding physically disabled students and the need for provincial programs to facilitate and subsidize the purchase, repair and replacement of assistive devices required by the physically handicapped in order to function at an optimum level."

At the meeting of the Advisory Council on September 23, in response to a memo from John Nywenig, Program Coordinator, Secretariat for Social Development, the members again reviewed the Symons Report in order that their comments could be taken into consideration when the Cabinet Committees discussed the recommendations of the Report. Council requested that the Chairman, Council Member Dr. A.T. Jousse and the Executive Officer meet with representatives of the Ontario Human Rights Commission to establish whether or not 'physical disability' need be defined for purposes of inclusion as a grounds for non-discrimination in the proposed revision of the Human Rights Code; to clarify the intent and meaning of the definition of 'physical disability' recommended by the Code Review Committee in its report entitled 'Life Together . . .'; and to communicate recommendations arising from this meeting directly to the Honourable Margaret Birch.

Accordingly, the above-named met with Dr. N. Bruce McLeod, Chairman of the Code Review Committee, and James Fulton, Coordinator of the Code Review, on September 30 and were satisfied that 'physical disability' should be defined for purposes of inclusion in the Code for two reasons: First, to ensure a broad interpretation of the term, which was the intent of the Code Review Committee, and thereby forestall a possible narrow interpretation by a Board of Review or other judicial body. Second, as a guide to assist the Commissioners in their administration of the Code.

The Council Chairman conveyed this information to Mrs. Birch in a letter dated October 12, 1977, in which he also wrote: "Further, we are satisfied that the definition of 'physical disability' recommended by the Commission, namely 'a determinable medical characteristic of an individual, including the history of such a medical characteristic, which may result from disease, injury, congenital condition of birth or functional disorder and which is unrelated to an individual's ability to perform the duties of a particular job or employment, or to live in a particular housing accommodation or to enjoy the benefits of a particular public service or facility', does in fact convey the intent of the Code Review Committee in relatively few words.

"There may, however, be some difficulty in interpreting the meaning of the phrase 'is unrelated' as used in the definition, in the manner intended by the Commission. As we were unable to propose a better word or phrase we suggest that an asterisk be used in conjunction with this phrase explaining that 'is unrelated' means 'does not constitute an impediment.'

"Council did not wish to concern itself about the use of the term 'physical disability' rather than 'physical handicap'. It appears that this is a matter of semantics and Council would be pleased to have one term or the other included as a grounds for non-discrimination in the Human Rights Code. As Chairman, I have expressed my personal preference for the term 'physical handicap' to Mr. Symons. We are not, therefore, making any recommendation to you on a preference for one or other of these terms.

"I trust the above will be helpful to you (Mrs. Birch) and your colleagues as you prepare instructions to the draftors of the proposed new legislation."

The Council received a letter from the Chairman of the Ontario Human Rights Commission expressing gratitude for its thoughtful interest in



the work of the Commission and kind remarks about the latter's recent report 'Life Together.' The letter concludes: "We will look forward to working with you on a continuing basis on many matters of common concern."

Although the 'Life Together' report was still being considered, in the Speech from the Throne on February 21, 1978, the Lieutenant-Governor said, "in the meantime, however, the Government will move to protect the rights of the physically handicapped." In response to a suggestion that the Council should find out in which direction the Government intended to move, John Nywening said basically what is meant is that the Government is going to have to take a close look at the report, which gives tremendous power to the Ontario Human Rights Commission. Meanwhile, they will take the first step with regard to the physically handicapped and include them as one of the categories under which discrimination will not be allowed. Mr. Nywening said it was his understanding that a bill covering discrimination against the physically handicapped would be introduced into the Legislature before the final adoption of the human rights report.

Early in March, Chairman Andrew Clarke met with Mrs. Birch and talked about questions raised in the House by Dr. Stuart Smith, Leader of the Opposition, regarding when the Legislature might discuss the human rights report and the "amendment . . . which has to do with the handicapped and their inclusion in the Human Rights Code. . .". Mrs. Birch said that, while the Government didn't agree with everything in 'Life Together', it agrees with the position taken regarding the physically handicapped. She thought something would be done about that.

### **Bill 59 — The Family Law Reform Act, 1978**

Concerned that Bill 59 — An Act to reform the Law respecting Property Rights and Support Obligations between Married Persons and in other Family Relationships — could take away the independence of unmarried physically handicapped persons aged 16 years or over, the Council wrote on December 8, 1977 to the Attorney General, the Honourable Roy McMurtry, to request a meeting with a senior representative from the Attorney General's office to discuss the bill and, in particular, its implications with regard to the financial support of physically handicapped persons. Accordingly Karen Weiler, Counsel with the Policy Development Division of the Ministry of the Attorney General, attended the Council's December 16 meeting.

Providing, in the Chairman's words, "a good background to a complex matter" Mrs. Weiler said, in summary: Under existing law, there was the obligation of children to support their parents, except where a child is unable to support himself or withdraw from his parents because of disability. The existing network of social services under the Ministry of Community and Social Services operates independently from legislation and will continue to do so. The new legislation would not take anything away although the Ministry of Community and Social Services could charge for the support provided. A worker can require the person applying for assistance to maximize income, such as forcing a wife to sue her husband for support if he deserts her. Under Bill 59 the Ministry of Community and Social Services could sue instead. Several options had been discussed with the Honourable Keith Norton and the Ministry of Community and Social Services would accept programs that don't require them to charge back.

The Chairman said that, from the Council's point of view, we were aware of the serious problem, physically speaking, for a disabled person to withdraw from home and the unfortunate position a physically handicapped person can be put in, compared to an able-bodied 18-year-old who can get out and look after himself.

The proposed legislation shouldn't adversely affect any physically handicapped children, Mrs. Weiler said. This legislation is aimed at inter-familial obligations and not at causing an adverse effect on social benefits. It is not, Mrs. Weiler continued, the type of legislation designed to give handouts. An independent person in any family relationship has certain rights and it is to protect those rights that the legislation is framed. The status of being independent is not being put down by the legislation, Mrs. Weiler concluded.

However, the Executive Officer pointed out the real concern of the Council was for the possible loss of present programs assisting the physically handicapped. This led to a lengthy discussion in which invited guests Belinda Morin, Coordinator of Services for the Elderly and Disabled, Metropolitan Toronto, and Lyle Pringle, Coordinator for the Handicapped, Borough of Etobicoke, were involved as well as Council members. The discussion centred around Sections 16, 17 and 18 of the proposed legislation. These sections outlined the responsibility of family members to financially support dependent parents or children and would give the Ministry of Community and Social Services the power to claim back from family members any support it



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may give to dependents through provincial allowances. The effect would be to prolong the physically handicapped person's dependence as a child and further penalize a parent and other family members, who no doubt have already found it a struggle to raise a physically handicapped child.

The Council therefore decided to recommend to the Honourable Margaret Birch that legislation regarding Bill 59 be delayed until details could be worked out, especially with relation to Sections 16, 17 and 18. However, in the interim, the Standing Committee on the Administration of Justice, which was reviewing the bill, clause by clause, revised or deleted the offending portions of those sections, to the satisfaction of the handicapped community. The Family Law Reform Act came into force on March 31, 1978 and the Council is pleased that it was able to have a part in protecting the rights and independence of physically handicapped individuals.

## Income maintenance

The Council's Report and Recommendations on Income Maintenance for the Physically Handicapped (see Second Annual Report, Appendix 2) were formally presented to Mrs. Birch in March 1977. She said they were "utterly reasonable recommendations, which could also apply to other than the physically handicapped — the aged, single parents etc." and she would do her best to persuade her Cabinet colleagues to agree with them.

Throughout the year following their presentation, the Council followed up with Mrs. Birch on the status of the report and recommendations but it was not until March 1978 that some positive action resulted. Mrs. Birch advised the Chairman that a meeting had been arranged with the Honourable Darcy McKeough and the Honourable Keith Norton for April 13. Invited to attend were Chairman Andrew Clarke, former Chairman Edward Dunlop, former Chairman of the Income Maintenance Committee Dr. Stobo Prichard and Executive Officer Gerald Clarke.

Although this meeting took place after the end of the period this annual report covers, it is worth mentioning some of the encouraging aspects of it. In respect to Recommendation No. 1 of the Report, Mr. McKeough agreed the 75% taxback imposes a burden on physically handicapped persons. However, the province is limited in what it can do under the terms of funding it receives

through the Canada Assistance Plan. Until the terms are changed nothing can be done, Mr. McKeough advised. He agreed with the suggestion by the Chairman that the provincial Ministers of Welfare recommend the taxback be lowered and particularly asked Mr. Norton to have the subject on the agenda for the federal and provincial Ministers' conference in September.

Mr. McKeough was in total agreement with Recommendation No. 11 that married disabled females be allowed to apply for assistance under FBA/Gains-D in their own right. As far as Recommendation No. 12 was concerned — that essential prosthetic, orthotic and assistive devices be insured benefits under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan — Mr. McKeough thought it made a lot of sense and was very encouraging regarding the outcome of the recommendation. He promised to look into the matter with the Minister of Health.

The Council is continuing to monitor the Government's response to its report and recommendations and is hopeful that at least some of the latter will be implemented during its fourth year of operation.

## Income maintenance systems

Some concerns about the Gains-D program under the Family Benefits Act were expressed to the Council through its Chairman by Mrs. Jane Staub, Director of Psychological Services, Ontario Crippled Children's Centre. Among her concerns were Form 4 — Medical Report in Respect of Impairment (Ministry of Community and Social Services) which, if a physician ticked off the wrong item, could lead to an individual losing \$100 a month for life; the lack of a booklet explaining the benefits available in Ontario for disabled people; and the definition of 'permanently unemployable' and 'permanently disabled'.

In discussing these concerns, the Council had the benefit of the knowledge and expertise of Peter Crichton, Director, Rehabilitation Branch, Ministry of Community and Social Services. Mr. Crichton said the definition of 'permanently unemployable' and 'permanently disabled' had been under discussion in the Ministry of Community and Social Services for several years. You are looking at two groups, he said — permanently unemployable and medically handicapped — whose needs vary as far as accommodation, ambulatory condition etc. Though it is not perfect, Medical Form 4 attempts to get at the

necessary information. Is the applicant 'medically' employable — if yes, is s/he permanently handicapped? Is s/he temporarily handicapped and 'medically' employable? A doctor may not be in a position, Mr. Crichton said, to determine that transportation, accommodation and support services are not available to an individual. A form that talks about an individual's capability would serve the purpose better.

Council members Dr. Albin Jousse and Dr. William Orr expressed their agreement with the concerns conveyed to the Council by Mrs. Staub and felt that Form 4 needed revising. They commented that it is difficult to get across an assessment of a person by ticking blocks (on Form 4), there is a lot of redundancy on the form and the examining doctor's opinion should be requested re the patient's condition and ability to function. The Council requested Drs. Jousse and Orr to submit a draft form incorporating their suggestions which could then, after Council approval, be forwarded through Mrs. Birch to the Ministry of Community and Social Services. At the moment, this item is still under consideration.

## **The special needs of physically handicapped children**

On Tuesday, May 24, 1977, the Honourable Keith Norton, Minister of Community and Social Services, announced that families who care for their severely handicapped children at home would be assisted financially by the Government of Ontario. He said that, in order to assist in caring for their children at home, rather than in an institution, families may be eligible for an allowance of up to \$150 per month to help with the special costs of raising a severely handicapped child, over and above those costs not covered by OHIP, special education or social service programs.

The Advisory Council discussed this initial announcement at its meeting on June 24 and felt that, while it was a step in the right direction, the program had its limitations. In order to evaluate the program better, the Council invited the Honourable Keith Norton and/or his senior officials to attend its meeting on July 28. William G. Smith, Director of the Provincial Benefits Branch, came to the meeting as Mr. Norton was unfortunately unable to attend.

Mr. Smith emphasized first of all that the Minister had said "severely handicapped children" in his announcement of the program. A statement of the degree of disability from a professional such

as a public health nurse is required to accompany the application for an allowance. The statement would not be a medical assessment, Mr. Smith said, as some children have been disabled from birth.

Several options were open in establishing the income levels of applicants, Mr. Smith continued. There was also the question of how assets would be treated in relation to the family benefits program. Applications had been submitted by families already receiving family benefits and in order for them not to lose eligibility for FBA or have their GWA allowance reduced, the regulations will have to be changed, Mr. Smith said. Of applicants approved to receive the new allowance, most are getting the maximum \$150 a month, with some getting less due to other expenses or assets.

Rod Walsh, the parent of a physically handicapped child and President of the Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association, invited to speak by the Council, first of all thanked the Government for considering the problem of the costs of caring for severely handicapped children and for implementing the program. Then he asked why a limit of \$150 was placed when you compare the cost of supporting a severely handicapped child in the family to the provincial government supporting one in an institution. He asked Mr. Smith: "Why not focus on the needs of the child and then decide the amount that meets that situation?"

Mr. Walsh outlined some critical areas of financial concern: parental relief such as day care, transportation and accessible living accommodation. This allowance is an investment in a family, he said — open the \$150 limit up and keep families together. He concluded by saying that the positive approach by the Government is appreciated but he would like to see further developments to avoid institutionalization.

Lyle Pringle, Coordinator for the Handicapped, Borough of Etobicoke, was invited to speak next and prefaced his remarks by saying that, whether \$150 is enough or not, he questions the services provided in general to physically handicapped persons. It isn't always a matter of money, he said, but we must find the means of providing the services necessary. Day care is an aspect to be considered for all ages of handicapped persons — it's not always necessary to have someone there 24 hours a day.

As far as the \$150 figure was concerned, Mr. Smith said, you have to start somewhere. Their long-range policy was being studied, including a



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list of important factors such as transportation, special clothing, special diets, prosthetics and their maintenance, drugs, dental care, the costs of other social programs (such as play therapy) not covered by existing programs, special education, weekend parental relief, summer camp fees, homemakers' service etc. Mr. Smith said they expect the new Children's Services Division to look after the development of services in general for children.

While Council members on the whole applauded the Government's initiation of a financial allowance for the families of severely handicapped children, there were several negative comments on the means test involved and the administration of it. It was suggested by some members that the Ontario Society for Crippled Children's existing network of district nurses could be used to assess the family applying for the allowance but Mr. Smith said they felt they had to do this themselves at this point.

Gerald Clarke offered the assistance of the Council in making the program work well, as well as suggesting calling on the resources of the Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association, the Ontario Society for Crippled Children and Council members. Mr. Clarke said the Council wants to see the program developed to meet the needs of the physically handicapped in the best way.

Council again discussed the financial allowance for the families of severely handicapped children at its next meeting on August 25. The members repeated their concerns with the means test and its administration. The discussion closed with the Council deciding to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to work with the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Provincial Benefits Branch in particular, to ensure that Council would have input to the program providing financial assistance to the parents of severely handicapped children, including those mentally retarded.

Dr. William Orr was appointed Chairman of the Committee on the Special Needs of Physically Handicapped Children and their first meeting was held with William Smith, Director of the Provincial Benefits Branch, and Valerie Wilson of his staff as guests. The committee members were impressed with the way their questions (regarding the allowance for families of severely handicapped children) were answered and with the obvious sensitivity of Mr. Smith and Mrs. Wilson for the needs of these families. The members were told that the severity of the child's handicap and the cost to the parent in looking after the child are two of the major factors concerned in awarding

the allowance. The committee proposed to have a further look at the whole program within a year and felt there was no urgent need to recommend modifications at the present time.

The role of the committee and its future usefulness to the Council were thoroughly discussed and three objectives identified:

- (a) they were anxious to learn of the workings of and establish a relationship with the new Children's Services Division within the Ministry of Community and Social Services;
- (b) they were anxious to clarify the problems of psychological and psychometric testing before disabled children begin an educational program and intended to consult with the Special Education Branch of the Ministry of Education and the Professors of Psychology in each of the medical schools in the province concerning this type of testing;
- (c) they wanted to contact some parent groups of physically handicapped children to gain ideas on the role the committee could play in helping them.

These objectives were steadily pursued by the committee through meetings with Dr. Clive Chamberlain, Chief Policy Adviser and Philippa McKen of his staff, Children's Services Division, Ministry of Community and Social Services; Dr. Marvin Goodman, President and Dr. David Randall, Past President of the Ontario Psychological Association, and Jane Staub, Director of Psychology, Ontario Crippled Children's Centre; and two representatives from the Ottawa Crippled Children's Parents' Association. Correspondence from the Parents Association for Physically Handicapped Children in Belleville also brought various concerns to the attention of the committee.

At the end of the period this report covers, the committee found it had been largely reacting to problems presented for its consideration and possible solution. They intend to take some initiatives of their own in future, such as looking at the needs of families with physically handicapped children and investigating the continuing education of professionals teaching these children.

## Transportation

On September 29, 1976, Margaret Birch and her Cabinet colleague, The Honourable James Snow, Minister of Transportation and Communications jointly announced that special transportation services for the physically handicapped would be



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funded as pilot projects in five Ontario municipalities during the next two years. In her remarks, Mrs. Birch acknowledged the assistance given by the Council in the Government's discussions on the development and introduction of this new program through its recommendations concerning transportation policy for the disabled.

At the Council's meeting on June 24, 1977, Belinda Morin, Coordinator, Services for the Elderly and Disabled, the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto and Chairman of the Wheel-Trans Advisory Committee, brought the Council up to date on the five operations — in Chatham, Ottawa, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie and Metro Toronto. Mrs. Morin said the information gained from these pilot projects would be used to determine the need for service across the province and to accurately identify the demand for trips, the frequency of service, the best type of vehicle and so on. The province is also collecting data on other projects in cities that are not part of the pilot project program.

Once all the information gathered is analyzed, Mrs. Morin said, a unified provincial approach to transportation for the physically handicapped will be proposed. She said she can't commend too highly Mrs. Birch's support of the Council's position on a provincial service through the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

*The following summarizes Mrs. Morin's report:*

Monthly charts of the average daily ridership show it as going up; deficit per passenger at \$5 to \$6 per trip not as low as expected; tie-down not standard as difficult to determine proper way of securing a passenger; Ottawa pilot project providing most statistics at that time; definition of disability will be arrived at. Cost of services not expected to be as great as original Peat, Marwick study suggested; policy decisions to be made whether service to be unified with public system thereby involving unions, with consequent cost factors; eligibility according to disability, particularly the blind, to be decided. Fares will be no less than regular fares; Peterborough and Chatham providing evening and weekend service at municipal cost (no cost-sharing with province available for this); looking at computer dispatching eventually; users of service are clients or passengers, not patients; not offering social service — resisting agencies arranging transportation for the disabled; want it looked on as a public service; not a custom service.

The Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Transportation was reactivated in September 1977

and Chairman Jack Longman reaffirmed the previous committee's objective of looking at the private purchase of personal transportation for physically handicapped persons. They would be seeking information in three areas: names and addresses of persons who offer driver training to the physically handicapped; the availability of hand controls and other driving aid systems; and existing methods of obtaining transportation for the physically handicapped in non-urban areas. The availability of subsidies for handicapped people to obtain hand controls for cars and for those whose disabilities force them to drive to work were other areas suggested by the Council for investigation.

As part of its research, the committee examined the study on transportation for seniors in the province, compiled by the Ontario Advisory Council on Senior Citizens. Many of the recommendations, they found, ran parallel to the needs they were uncovering. They noted that the federal government was surveying rural transportation, using Huron County as a test area. The committee also visited the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre to view a slide presentation on their driver training program, as well as see the education and testing rooms. Committee representative Margaret Young, Senior Therapist, Teen Unit at the Centre, made the presentation, to which Ed Blake, Driver Education Branch, Ministry of Transportation and Communications had been invited. He was quite enthralled that physically handicapped people were able to drive cars.

Arising out of a concept of Dean Mellway, Regional Manager, Ontario March of Dimes, Kitchener, the Council agreed to co-sponsor with his organization a Parallel Transportation Systems Seminar held on January 26, 1978, at Howard Johnson's Airport Hotel, Toronto. The operators of the five pilot projects plus 15 other parallel transit systems were invited to attend as delegates, with the Council underwriting their travel expenses. Other systems and communities were invited to send observers, at their own expense.

The results of a study of parallel transportation systems for the physically handicapped, in the 20 communities, conducted by Dean Mellway and Kirsty Griffiths of the Ontario March of Dimes, formed the basis of the morning session at the seminar. Delegates were invited to offer suggestions for discussion topics in the afternoon, as well as to complete a summary chart on their system, bringing the information gathered in the study up to date. The following is a summary of

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the major areas discussed at the afternoon session:

- *Concern as to whether systems currently operated by non-profit incorporated boards eligible for provincial funding when cost-sharing policy developed.* Paul Dickey, Project Planner with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, indicated that a cost-sharing arrangement would be an agreement between the province and a municipal government. The municipality would be free to contract the actual service to whatever group was most suitable. This would not preclude management by a non-profit corporation.
- *Many communities not currently operating a parallel transit service may be unaware of the current developments and of the province's intention to announce its policy in October 1978.* Seminar organizers will seek to distribute information to communities throughout Ontario.
- *Funding for research that might improve design features in parallel transit equipment.* The Ministry of Transportation and Communications can be approached in relation to specific research designs.
- *Wheelchair tie-downs and seat belts.* A recommendation will be given to the province to include wearing of seat belts as part of the provincial policy.
- *Curb-to-curb or door-to-door service.* The seminar will recommend the provincial policy not specify and that this decision be left to each municipality. Participants were urged to check their insurance policy to ensure adequate coverage, especially where drivers assist users into and out of buildings.
- *The development of a reciprocal agreement whereby registered users in one city eligible for service in other cities.* The consensus was it seemed like a good idea to implement once all systems used same eligibility criteria. No formal recommendation made as logistics need to be worked out.

Due to adverse weather conditions, the seminar ended earlier than originally planned. Other issues identified but not discussed were: definition of eligibility; medical procedures for determining eligibility; use of volunteers; underutilization of some systems versus inability to meet demand in others; need for more communication between systems and with Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

The committee next turned its attention to the problems of enabling physically handicapped individuals to drive automobiles. Making good use of the expertise of Margaret Young, the Council arranged a Driver Education Seminar, co-sponsored by the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre, Toronto. The seminar was planned for May 25, 1978 and would be looking at such areas as type and uniformity of testing, certification of installers of hand controls, adaptive equipment available, resources available (including instruction) etc. Representatives were expected from various Ministries — Transportation and Communications, Health, Community and Social Services — insurance companies and some agencies.

A pamphlet listing the resources available throughout Ontario re physically handicapped driver education and installation of hand controls was planned for production by the committee, with the help of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. The pamphlet will include information on selecting the most suitable car. The committee was also going to look into the problems of rural transportation — grants, low-cost loans and other means of funding.

## Accessible train travel

People with an interest in seeing Canada's railway systems made accessible for regular use by physically handicapped persons seemed to be working independently of each other. Accordingly, Gerald Clarke arranged a meeting on May 31 to pull them all together so that a sensible approach might be taken on dealing with this issue. Representatives from various divisions of VIA Rail, Transport Canada, the Urban Transportation Development Corporation, the Canadian Paraplegic Association and the Ontario Federation for the Physically Handicapped gained a lot of information from the meeting and agreed to work together in future.

At the Council meeting on September 23, member Mary Sayons conveyed the feeling of a representative of the consulting firm involved in the research and design of a train access system for wheelchair passengers that the concerns of the physically disabled community had not been expressed strongly enough to the top-level decision-makers, such as Federal Transport Minister Otto Lang and the President of VIA Rail. Mrs. Sayons said insufficient pressure had been put on politicians to ensure the needs of the physically handicapped were met. At the



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suggestion of the Chairman, the Council unanimously agreed to write Otto Lang, with a copy to the President of VIA Rail, seeking reassurance that new passenger rail cars being ordered would include interior design changes to accommodate the special needs of physically handicapped persons, including those in wheelchairs.

In reply, Mr. Lang wrote, in part, "May I reassure you that the interior design of the new passenger equipment will accommodate the special needs of the physically handicapped through the provision of specially designed handrails, seating, entrances, washroom facilities etc." J. Frank Roberts, President of VIA Rail, responded also and wrote: "I would like to reassure you that VIA will do its utmost to provide adequate handicapped facilities and will be cooperating with groups interested in this area."

In spite of these assurances, however, Gerald Clarke received information on new passenger equipment, including specifications and drawings, from Transport Canada and he found that the design made very little allowance for the needs of the physically handicapped. With the approval of the Council, Mr. Clarke wrote on January 4, 1978, to the Railway Transportation Directorate of Transport Canada pointing out the discrepancies in the specifications and related drawings. He asked for assurance that responsible members of the handicapped community would be given the opportunity of meeting with the designers during the early prototype stages. Mr. Clarke's letter closed by offering the assistance of members of the Advisory Council and/or himself at any time. (*Editor's note:* No reply had been received by May 16 and Mr. Clarke wrote again. At the time of this writing, there had still been no response.)

### Licensing of vehicles and handicapped drivers

Prompted by the concerns of several members regarding the licensing and insuring of drivers who are or become physically handicapped, the Council invited representatives from two Ministries involved in these matters to its December 16 meeting. The question of the responsibility of a driver to advise the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MTC) and his insurer when a change takes place in his physical condition, sufficient to affect his driving ability, was discussed first. Donald Sandilands, Assistant Coordinator, General Insurance, Financial Institutions Division, Ministry of Consumer and

Commercial Relations said that the position of a person becoming disabled is that he *must* report this to his insurance agent. Insurance applications ask the question — *will* the operator driving the vehicle have any disability? Mr. Sandilands said that insurance companies have been able to deny liability when disabilities have not been reported.

In its discussion, the Council noted that a man or woman who becomes disabled and has had controls put on a car must report those facts. However, a person who has a heart attack could be a liability but doesn't have to report. Mr. Sandilands pointed out the wording in a policy is 'loss of use of . . . or physical or mental disability'. The Council felt that people should be made aware of the necessity to report and suggested that a statement be included on insurance certificates, as on drivers' licences, that a change in physical condition must be reported within seven days.

Council members raised the question of driver re-examination by the MTC after a person has become physically handicapped, quoting instances where licences had been issued to handicapped drivers without re-testing and the example of a person who had become a paraplegic, his licence renewal came up, applied honestly and the licence came back renewed, without any re-test involved. Don Godfrey, Head of Driver Licensing, Driver Licensing and Control, Ministry of Transportation and Communications said, in cases where a re-test has not taken place, the MTC must have been advised the person has made a complete adjustment. It may be that the handicapped are now very acceptable, he said, and the Examining Department has found less necessity for re-examination. Circumstances calling for a re-test may be advised by the person involved or by his or her doctor.

It was pointed out to Mr. Godfrey that the back of a driver's licence requests reporting of a change in physical or mental condition. He said that was an old format — such information is now on a tearoff slip. The Council felt that the information should stay on the licence and agreed to write to both the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications recommending that the driver's licence should carry a statement re reporting any change in physical or mental condition to the MTC and the driver's insurance company.

The matter of reclassification of driving licences had been discussed at the Council's meeting on November 25. As a result, the Chairman wrote to the Honourable Margaret Birch to point out it



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would appear, with the introduction of the new system of classification at the beginning of 1978, that many totally deaf persons who now drive trucks and buses would not qualify to have their licences renewed. Mr. Clarke asked Mrs. Birch to bring the Council's concern to the Honourable James Snow, Minister of Transportation and Communications.

Mrs. Birch conveyed Mr. Snow's reply to the Council by letter on January 20, 1978, indicating that "truck drivers are exempted from the hearing qualifications but that Section 119 of the Highway Traffic Act does not permit such exemption to be given to bus drivers." Mr. Snow pointed out that the Canadian Medical Association has recommended that deaf persons should not be licensed to drive buses. He added the transit-using public has every right to expect that their safety shall be in the hands of bus drivers who meet the highest standards of medical and physical fitness, and it is his responsibility to ensure that this is so.

## Vocational rehabilitation

Through the Experience '77 program of the Ontario Government, Mindy Gollom and Michel Paré were hired as summer students from May to August to review in depth the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Act, the manner in which it is administered and the services delivered. The review was expected to provide the basis for recommendations by the Council suggesting possible revisions to the Act.

The students developed an open-ended questionnaire for interviewing various individuals involved in vocational rehabilitation services delivery as well as clients of such services. They conducted 20 personal interviews including VRS counsellors, vocational counsellors who work very closely with the VRS Branch, clients of the VRS Branch, workshop directors and the assistant to the Director of the VRS Branch.

In reporting on their review to the Council at its August 25 meeting, Miss Gollom and Mr. Paré felt they had identified some of the more important weaknesses in the Act and its implementation. They formulated 20 recommendations with a varying degree of importance. Their impression was "there was not much wrong with the Act as such" — the difficulty seemed to lie with its interpretation and administration — and the major criticism seemed to be with its flexibility and not the Act itself.

The fact that there was difficulty in the interpretation of the Act, Mr. Paré said, was borne out in many of their interviews, where the interviewees could identify the problems but could not identify the base. He said that senior people in agencies were aware of the services available; however, the individuals whom they interviewed had incurred difficulties in applying clients to services or vice versa. After a very lengthy discussion touching on all the recommendations within the students' report, the Council unanimously decided to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to study the report and bring recommendations for final approval.

After its initial meeting, the committee found it was going to need considerably more time than expected to evaluate the report in relation to the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Act. It was decided that input from sources outside the committee would prove helpful — social workers, rehabilitation personnel etc. involved with the VRS Act and members of the Rehabilitation Branch of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The committee expected to present its Report and Recommendations to the Honourable Margaret Birch in the fall of 1978.

## OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST

### Publicity

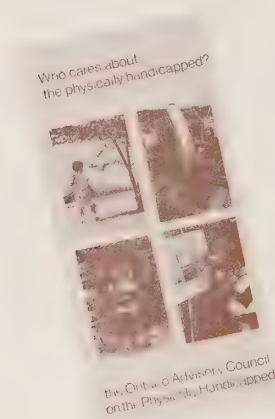
The Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Publicity was formed in October 1976, charged with the responsibility of letting the physically handicapped population and the general public know of its existence, mandate and function. To answer the question why the Council would want publicity, the committee presented three major reasons:

1. *Value to the general public* — if they were more aware of the Council's work they would become more aware of the potential of the physically handicapped to contribute to society.
2. *Value to the physically handicapped* — the general public would become more aware of the factors which prevent the physically handicapped from enjoying a satisfying and independent lifestyle and would thus become more sensitive to the needs of handicapped people. Increased Council publicity will show the physically handicapped that someone is working to improve their situation and help counter the sense of isolation experienced by many of them.

3. *Value to the Council* — increased publicity about its activities will engender feedback, giving Council the ability to make recommendations which will have the backing of considerable public opinion. These should carry greater weight with government.

In fulfilling its responsibility outlined above, the Ad Hoc Committee took the following action:

- Produced a *pamphlet* explaining what the Council is, how it is structured, how it operates, what its goals are and which areas of concern it is working on. The target for the pamphlet is handicapped people and groups, the general public and people who are decision-



Cover of the Council's pamphlet, issued in September 1977

makers in the community such as politicians, ministers, teachers, school principals etc. Mention is made in it that more information is in the annual report, available from the Council office, and a list of current members and their hometowns is included, so that the reader knows there are members from all areas of the province.

- Arranged for *videotaping* of the regular Council meeting on July 28 and the Public Forum held in Kingston on September 22. These tapes were edited to provide a final version for use by members locally as an introduction to talk and phone-in shows on cable TV.
- Arranged a *Public Forum* in Kingston City Hall on September 22 (a full report is given separately under 'Public Forums').

In addition, Council members William Watson and Heather Rankin, Mrs. Rankin's young, physically handicapped son, Billy, and Executive Officer Gerald Clarke took part in a TV talk show, 'Daybeat', hosted by Doug Hall. The program discussed the problems faced by a handicapped child, the assistance offered by treatment centres

such as the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre, the difficulties encountered when the child reaches the age when the centres no longer look after them and the workings of the Advisory Council. The program, one hour long, was shown in late October over about 25 stations covering Toronto, Hamilton, Barrie, the Mid-Canada System plus 16 satellites, Winnipeg, Calgary, Lethbridge, Edmonton and Red Deer.

During the taping of the 'Daybeat' show, Mr. Watson said at one point: "I am very happy to belong to the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped. Of all things I have been associated with, it is the finest thing that ever happened." Such an unsolicited testimonial is surely the best publicity!

## Assistive devices

Since May 1976, the Council has reiterated, reinforced and reaffirmed its recommendation 'that the provisions of OHIP be amended so that major external prosthetic, orthotic and other essential assistive devices be furnished as an insured benefit where such devices are prescribed by medical or other authorized personnel and are furnished through approved facilities and persons.' At the Council's meeting on February 24, 1978, the Chairman read a letter from Mrs. Birch advising it was her understanding that the research work on a study of implementing such a recommendation had been completed by the Ministry of Health. However, the paper had not yet been considered by the Senior Management Committee in the Ministry. Mrs. Birch expected it to be three to six weeks till this happened and said she would keep the Council informed as soon as a formal response was received from the Honourable Dennis Timbrell.

(*Editor's note:* In the meantime, a meeting on the subject of the Council's income maintenance report and recommendations, of which number 12 concerned assistive devices, was arranged for April 13. Attending were the Honourable Margaret Birch, the Honourable Darcy McKeough (then Treasurer of Ontario), the Honourable Keith Norton, former Council Chairman Edward Dunlop, former Chairman of the Income Maintenance Committee Dr. J. Stobo Prichard, Council Chairman Andrew Clarke and Executive Officer Gerald Clarke. The Chairman later reported that Mr. McKeough thought it made a lot of sense that essential prosthetic, orthotic and assistive devices be insured benefits under OHIP and was very encouraging regarding the outcome of the



recommendation. In a letter to Mr. Dunlop, dated May 24, 1978, Mr. McKeough said: "I am confident that somewhere in our \$14 billion programs we can find a low-priority \$2 million item which can be cut out to provide the necessary funding for coverage of assistive devices.")

Unfortunately, it seems there has been no further action taken beyond the matter being under review by the Ministry of Health. The Council will continue to press for this important amendment to the provisions of OHIP.

## Accessible facilities

Some progress was made on the accessibility of buildings, both government and business, during the year under review. The commitment by Dr. Bette Stephenson, then Minister of Labour, to employ the physically handicapped resulted in alterations being made to the Travelers Tower at 400 University Avenue in Toronto, the building in which the Ministry is located. At Queen's Park, a specially designed elevator has been installed in the Legislative Building to enable physically handicapped persons to traverse between the main building and the north wing. A ramp to the front entrance of Queen's Park is not appropriate as the building is a historic structure and its appearance would be aesthetically altered.

The Executive Officer of the Council has found a willingness by the provincial government to cooperate in making the necessary alterations for accessibility. An example of this is the statement made by the Honourable Keith Norton, Minister of Community and Social Services, in a letter to 'The Globe and Mail' on November 7, 1977. He said, in regard to the accessibility of the Ministry's offices: "I want to give every assurance that in all new leased and designed offices and facilities under the jurisdiction of this Ministry, ease of access and washroom facilities for the handicapped are mandatory."

The private sector is cooperating too — both Excelsior Life and Aetna Insurance have been considering making alterations to their buildings in Toronto. Lack of awareness is usually the reason for not having done anything to make buildings accessible to the physically handicapped, but once made aware there is a tremendous willingness on the part of companies to cooperate, even when they find it is completely at their own expense.

Following the temporary adaptation of Vanier College Residence at York University for the housing conference of the Ontario Federation for the Physically Handicapped (OFPH) and use by the athletes participating in the 1976 Olympiad for the Physically Disabled, the Council approached the university, suggesting the facilities should be made permanently accessible for the benefit of conference groups of physically handicapped people. After one-and-a-half years and several meetings with university officials, the Council received a letter dated December 7, 1977 advising the alterations could be done if and when the funds were obtained. Neither the Advisory Council nor the university has the money to support this project and there is none available from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to fund residential alterations.

The Council discussed the problem at its December 16 meeting and passed two motions for action. The first was that the Council urge York University to submit an application to Wintario for a grant to make renovations to Vanier College Residence. The second called for the Council to request the OFPH and any other interested groups to make the need of alterations to the Residence for the benefit of recreation and conferences for the handicapped known to the Minister of Culture and Recreation. At the February 24, 1978 meeting, the Council further decided to attach copies of information on the York Conference Facilities to its correspondence with interested groups. To date, support has not been secured for the proposed alterations.

## Cystic fibrosis program

Through a letter from Ian Bain, Executive Director of the Ontario Society for Crippled Children (OSCC), the Council was made aware of difficulties encountered by the Society in their negotiations with the Province regarding the cystic fibrosis program of the Ministry of Health. Since 1964, the OSCC has collaborated with the Ministry in the provision of drugs and equipment and has administered the program, including the application of a means test to ensure that parents paid as much of the cost as they could without hardship.

Costs of administering the program have escalated to the point where the OSCC felt, Mr. Bain said, the time had come for a serious review of the program by the Ministry of Health with a view to one of two alternative methods. First,



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taking over of the program by the Ministry which could develop its own method of delivery or, second, continuation of the present method with clear explanation by the Ministry to parents of their obligations under the plan and with underwriting by the Ministry of the service delivery costs to the Society.

The Council invited Mr. Bain to its August 25th meeting to air the difficulties referred to in his letter. However, in the interim, the Council facilitated meetings of Mr. Bain and his staff with representatives of the provincial government and these difficulties were well on the way to being resolved. Mr. Bain thanked the Council for their cooperation in this instance and for the very professional manner in which they dealt with agencies representing the physically handicapped.

## Role of the family

As Chairman of the Council, Andrew Clarke was invited by Mrs. Birch to attend a one-day seminar entitled 'Think about the family' held in May 1977, Family Unity Month in the province. It was hoped that the seminar would shed light on the problems facing the family and on ways in which family life can be made an enriching experience. A variety of interests was represented by the attendees — federal and provincial levels of government, voluntary agencies, the church, students and others.

In his report on the seminar at the Council's May 26 meeting, Mr. Clarke outlined the topics discussed: does the government by creating dependency undermine the family's responsibility; can the government, by supporting the family while in a healthy state, prevent family breakdown; why the family; relationship of the family versus the state; sexual behaviour in Canada; trends; funded family services; and economics of the family.

Lieutenant Governor Pauline McGibbon, in her Speech from the Throne on February 21, 1978, said it was the intention of the Government of Ontario to take a leading part in supporting and strengthening the family in the province. A comprehensive review of its policies and programs as they affect the family will be undertaken, she said, with the aim of making appropriate changes to enhance the role and authority of the family unit. Special attention will be paid to family care for the handicapped, the sick and the elderly. All of these efforts will be coordinated through the Provincial Secretary for Social Development.

## Employment

The Seminar on Employability of the Handicapped, held in November 1976 and in which Council members Andrew Clarke and Heather Rankin and Executive Officer Gerald Clarke were involved, continued to create ripples of public awareness. Canada Life Assurance Company, for example, arrived at a decision to increase employment opportunities for physically handicapped people. To help accomplish this, they have renovated the facilities within their head office in Toronto to make it accessible.

An interesting project for the employment of physically handicapped persons was described to the Council at its March 31, 1978 meeting. E.L. Kincaid, Chief Executive Officer of the Pride Multicap Foundation of London, Ontario, said the organization was founded in 1975. It had just received initial funding from the Federal Department of Manpower and Immigration (Local Employment Assistance Program). The name Pride comes from the initials of Productive Rehabilitation and Independent Development through Employment.

*The following is a summary of Pride's operation:*

Ten handicapped people are employed in the production centre with four, including Mr. Kincaid, management staff. One product line is being marketed by Lions Clubs, an opportunity for the handicapped to do things for service clubs instead of the other way around. They're conservatively looking for 2,000,000 units of this line to be sold in Ontario and Quebec. LEAP is willing to keep the contract constantly open for renegotiation if the operation can be proved viable in a minimum of three years. Number of handicapped employed in production is expected to increase to 18 in 1979, 26 in 1980 and at least 50 at the end of the three-year period. Handicapped people are hired through liaison with agencies in London and calls from the handicapped interested in working.

Pride has no intention of seeking public funding. Wages will be flexible, starting at the minimum (Department of Manpower requires that for 90 days) with OHIP and transportation being paid by Pride. This will apply until the Foundation reaches its break-even point when the employees will go on profit-sharing, on a basis yet to be approved by the Board of Directors. The 'workshop' identification will not be used — it will be a production centre and marketing will be done under the name Pride Promo Products. GAINS-D and Family Benefits cheques will be held by the

Foundation for 90 days, except for paying OHIP, to see if the individual can handle the job emotionally. If they work out all right, the employees will go on voluntary withdrawal from Family Benefits, scaling down \$100, \$75, \$50 over three months. Pride is operated by a 12-member Board of Directors, committed in writing, with everything done properly.

## Shortage of pituitary glands and body organs

The matter of a shortage of pituitary glands for the purpose of extracting hormones for the treatment of dwarfism was brought to the attention of the Council at its May 26, 1977 meeting. The introduction of The Human Tissue Gift Act, 1971 seemed to be the cause of the problem. Pathologists in Ontario were given strict instructions concerning the removal of any tissues, other than those required for diagnostic purposes of the cause of death, unless there had been specific consent of the deceased or next of kin. Council members, while not expert in this area, recognized the need for review of The Human Tissue Gift Act and its restrictions. Accordingly, the Council wrote to the Honourable Margaret Birch recommending such a review with the shortage of pituitary glands in mind.

In discussing the above, it was also learned that, since the introduction of the Act, there appeared to be a shortage of most organs for transplant purposes. It was pointed out that, although the designation on an individual's driver's licence setting out the wish to donate body organs in the event of death is an appropriate method, there has not been the expected response. The Council therefore also recommended to Mrs. Birch that she request the Minister of Health give consideration to more publicity on the need for people to donate their organs and bodies for transplant purposes. It was recommended as well that a type of flyer be included with licence renewals.

In November a reply was received from Mrs. Birch to the effect that the Council's concerns had been under consideration for some time by the Ministry of Health and the Solicitor General. As a partial solution, the Ministry of Health had approached the Ontario Medical Association to gain the cooperation of pathologists across the province in removing the pituitary gland as a routine procedure at an autopsy. At the same time, the Council learned that the Ontario Society for Crippled Children had recently received a 'stopgap' grant of \$50,000 from the Hospital for

Sick Children Foundation to purchase and distribute human growth hormone for children of short stature in Ontario.

The matter seemed to end there but on February 24, 1978, the Council again focussed its attention on the shortage of pituitary glands when a relevant story that appeared in 'The Globe and Mail' on February 22 was brought before the meeting. The Council unanimously voted to re-approach Mrs. Birch about the review of The Human Tissue Gift Act, so that recovery of pituitary glands for growth hormone might be stimulated. In addition, after considerable discussion, the Council without exception agreed to request the Ministry of Health to carry out an investigation of the nature, extent and economic consequences of the lack of other human tissues and organs for transplant and other purposes.

The Council commends the Ministry of the Solicitor General for publishing a pamphlet entitled 'Help somebody, someday', publicizing the need for donation of organs and tissues. It was part of a province-wide advertising campaign on the subject. The pamphlet is available in English, French or Italian.

## Public Forums

The Council made one of its most significant decisions this year when it decided to start holding public meetings outside the Toronto area. The decision was prompted by some direction from the Publicity Committee who felt that the Council needed to let the physically handicapped population and the general public know of its existence, mandate and function.

The first Public Forum, as the meeting was designated, was held on September 22, 1977 at



Jack Longman, Transportation Committee Chairman, Andrew Clarke, Council Chairman and Gerald Clarke, Executive Officer enjoy a little comic relief during the Kingston Public Forum

Photo: Bill Baird, Kingston



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7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall of Kingston City Hall. Council member Marian Webb, who lives in Kingston, served as coordinator for the visit and the way she did the job was "an inspiration", as was formally expressed to her on the day after the Forum at the regular meeting of the Council in the Holiday Inn, Kingston. The Council invited submissions to the Forum and received 15 briefs, letters and presentations covering many issues of concern to the physically handicapped in south-eastern Ontario. As well as hearing at the Forum from the people and organizations making the submissions, the Council's committees made use of the latter in determining recommendations to be made to the policy-makers. They found that the concerns of people in the Kingston area were not totally unlike those of others in the province. They will lend guidance to the Council's future planning and strength to its stance when approaching the Government on its policy and programs for physically handicapped people.

Over 250 people, including a large number who are physically disabled, attended the Public Forum and many more saw it on local cable television. In addition, the Chairman and the Executive Officer took part in a radio phone-in show on the day of the Forum and many individuals were heard from. Feedback was received from a number of people following the meeting and the general feeling was most favourable. Overall, it was felt that this type of session is most valuable and the visibility of Council in a situation such as this is extremely helpful for its purposes.

In conjunction with the visit to Kingston, Council members had an opportunity to visit local residences, rehabilitation, chronic-care and treatment centres, including St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital, Tercentennial Lodge and the Regional Centre for Handicapped Children and the new Regional Rehabilitation Centre, both at Kingston General Hospital.

At its November 25 meeting, the Council was extended an invitation by the Windsor and Essex County Advisory Committee of the Ontario March of Dimes to hold a Public Forum in Windsor on April 27, 1978. The Council voted unanimously to accept the courteous invitation, with the proviso that no particular organization would be tied in.

## Special education

After the former Chairman of the Council, Edward Dunlop, and the Executive Officer had pointed out to the Honourable Tom Wells, Minister of Education, that there was no representative from

the physically handicapped on his Advisory Council on Special Education, the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped was invited to name a person to sit on it. Council member Jack Longman was appointed and at the June 24 meeting gave a report on his involvement to date.

Using a St. Clair College, Windsor study on the educational level of disabled people as background, Mr. Longman brought to the attention of the Council on Special Education several concerns in the area of accessibility of elementary and secondary schools. A letter expressing these concerns was sent to Mr. Wells by the Council.

In discussing special education needs, OACPH members agreed that all schools should be as accessible as possible, looking ahead to further education requirements as well. It was felt that the concept of a 'special' school for the physically handicapped should be avoided, although it *is* sometimes necessary for certain children. It was also pointed out that teacher sensitization to physically handicapped children is constantly needed.

The Council noted at its February 24, 1978 meeting that the Speech from the Throne on February 21 included mention of the Government's plan to place an increasing emphasis on special identification of children with learning disabilities. They also want to ensure that all school boards provide appropriate levels of service for all students within their jurisdictions, regardless of their disabilities and handicaps.

## Research of the physically disabled citizens of Ontario

Council was informed at its August 25 meeting of a research proposal being jointly submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Health by the Ontario Federation for the Physically Handicapped (OFPH), The Canadian Red Cross Society (Ontario Division), Queen's University School of Rehabilitation Therapy (Occupational Therapy Division) and The Arthritis Society. The proposal requested funding to carry out a province-wide survey of the physically handicapped and their needs.

At the Council's meeting on February 24, 1978, word was received that the Ministry of Health had agreed to fund the research project. In a letter to the Executive Officer advising him of this, Mrs. Margaret McLeod of the Cheshire Homes



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Foundation (a member organization of the OFPH) and a former member of the Advisory Council, wrote: "It is a very significant step forward and the Government of Ontario will be copied, I am sure, in all the other provinces".

## Funding for amenities for the handicapped

William K. Adair, Consultant, Therapeutic Recreation, Sports and Fitness Division, Ministry of Culture and Recreation was invited to attend the Council's meeting on August 25, 1977 to discuss the extension of the Ministry's grants program for amenities for the handicapped. Additional funds may be obtained in two ways, according to a memo Mr. Adair provided to Council members. The first is through the Community Recreation Centres Act — Amenities for the Handicapped and, in order to qualify for additional support through this section of the Act, adaptations must: (a) provide barrier-free access for physically disabled people to use all areas of a facility open to the general public; (b) be approved by Ministry of Culture and Recreation officials. These additional funds cover either 50% or 100% (depending on the criteria met) of the *increased costs* associated with construction or renovation.

The second way in which additional funds may be obtained is through joint use of Wintario Capital Support and the Community Recreation Centres Act — Amenities for the Handicapped. Mr. Adair explained that Wintario may support 100% of the capital cost connected with renovations to make a building usable by physically handicapped people as long as the building plans were approved prior to the existing Ontario Building Code Act effective date (January 1, 1976). When considering the construction of new facilities or the renovation of an existing facility (for which plans were approved while the current Ontario Building Code Act was in effect), Mr. Adair said, 100% of the cost to make a building usable by handicapped people may be covered through Wintario as long as these provisions are beyond those required in Part 5 of the Ontario Building Code Act. It was pointed out that the application of Wintario funds was limited to buildings of a non-profit nature, including churches.

## The Assessment Act

The matter of increased property assessment due to modifications to a home to better accommodate a physically handicapped person

was brought to the Council's attention by Mrs. Lori Van Santen of Toronto. To assist in discussing the matter with Mrs. Van Santen, the Council invited P.G. Gillis, Executive Director, Assessment Division, Ministry of Revenue to its meeting on February 24, 1978.

The Van Santens' son, Chris, has cerebral palsy and has to use a wheelchair. He cannot go up and down stairs and his father can no longer carry him, Mrs. Van Santen said. The family had recently spent \$20,000 to add a ground-floor bedroom with a special bathroom attached, the door of which is wide enough for a wheelchair, and a shower and basin designed for Chris' special needs. A back porch with a lift built on to it was installed so that he can move from his home to the street and the outdoor world on his own.

Mrs. Van Santen said they had appealed to provincial and municipal officials for exemption from extra assessment based on the modifications but had received no promise of relief from additional taxation. The Executive Officer informed the Council that a Private Member's Bill, No. 95, introduced by Nick Leluk, PC MPP for York West in Toronto to provide an exemption from municipal taxation for additions and improvements to real property that are designed to aid persons who are physically disabled, did not get past first reading. Recently, Bill 91, an Act to amend The Assessment Act, received third reading in the Legislature. This Bill contains an amendment which provides for increases in property value of at least \$2,500 to be added to the assessment roll.

In response, Mr. Gillis said that municipalities were having a difficult time at the moment. There's a need to reform the property tax assessment so it doesn't impact too heavily on the taxpayer. Any modifications such as ramps, making washrooms accessible, lifts, etc., for the benefit of the physically handicapped, Mr. Gillis said, will not affect the assessment. There are various ways of approaching reform, he said, but in the end the assessment must express the value of the property.

There are a number of schemes available to help, such as reimbursing the owner by way of a tax credit if changes for a physically handicapped person are made, Mr. Gillis suggested. He said that a committee composed of the Treasurer of Ontario and municipal elected representatives was now sitting on proposals issued on January 4 by the Treasurer of Ontario to reform the municipal tax structure. It was hoped the committee's views

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would be known by the end of March and, if the Government went forward on these proposals, it was possible legislation would be passed in May or June. The only change in a home at the moment that would be taxable, Mr. Gillis said, would be an enlargement. Mr. Gillis was asked if the committee would take the Council's concerns into account and the answer was affirmative.

In discussing the issue, the Council felt that assessment places a value on a piece of property and should not be changed. If an addition is made, the assessment should be increased. The person who made the alterations would then apply for tax relief. Mrs. Van Santen agreed this would meet their need. Accordingly, the Council Chairman wrote to the Honourable Lorne Maeck, Minister of Revenue, on March 9 as follows:

"In view of the current consideration of the Treasurer of Ontario's proposals for reform of the municipal tax structure, the Council wishes to express support for a universal method of assessing property owners. Further, Council would urge the Minister to establish a policy providing tax relief, by the Province, for homeowners who have made design modifications or alterations necessary to conveniently accommodate a physically handicapped person.

"The Council feels strongly that such relief should come from the Province in that benefits would be incurred by enabling physically handicapped persons to live with dignity, safety and greater mobility, in a private residence, eliminating the necessity of institutionalization."

Mr. Maeck replied to the Council Chairman on March 29: "I appreciate your endorsement of the principle which preserves the integrity of the property tax base, and which places emphasis for social policy goals clearly in the fiscal arena. I have reviewed your proposals and I will be bringing the matter to the attention of my colleague, the Treasurer." Mr. Maeck had also written to City of Toronto Mayor David Crombie on the same subject and had quoted the Advisory Council's proposals to him, saying he would support their case when presented to his colleagues in Cabinet.

*(Editor's note: At the time of this writing, the Ministry of Revenue had not announced any change in the property tax assessment structure.)*

## Information guide for the physically handicapped

The Community Information Centre of Metropolitan Toronto approached the Council to

ask for input to a booklet they were preparing, 'Information for the Physically Handicapped.' Mrs. Elizabeth Wray, Executive Director and Miss Mary Dominico, Publications Supervisor from the Community Information Centre (CIC) were invited to discuss their project with the Council at its meeting on March 31.

Mrs. Wray told the members that the CIC provides information mainly on social services. In 1977, they handled 63,300 enquiries with 22% of the questions coming from senior citizens. The CIC is best known for its Directory of Community Services, Mrs. Wray said, and 8,000 are published every two years. Their most-used publication is 'Information for Seniors' of which 156,000 copies of the 1976-77 edition have been distributed.

Some time ago, a number of organizations approached CIC with the need for a booklet on information for the physically handicapped, Mrs. Wray said. CIC had been approached because first, they had experience in gathering, editing and publishing information and second, they constantly update their material. They applied for and received a Canada Works grant to do the necessary research. Not being experts in the field of the physically handicapped, Mrs. Wray said, they struck an advisory committee of people who *would* have the knowledge, such as Council's Executive Officer, Gerald Clarke. The committee was set up to give input to the content of the booklet, suggest a format and advise on distribution.

The CIC was now looking for funding for the printing and distribution of the booklet, Mrs. Wray said. A surplus of \$4,000 from the Canada Works grant was going to be given to them, \$6,000 was being provided by a service club and the remaining \$6,000 was being sought from Wintario. They will be looking for feedback from users via a reply-paid card in the booklet, Mrs. Wray said. If other communities are interested in producing a similar publication, she said they will work with them and they should feel free to call on the CIC to share their experience.

In answer to questions from Council members, Mrs. Wray and Miss Dominico provided the following information: They were seeking funding to put 'Information for the Physically Handicapped' on tape and in braille; they had not covered all handicapping conditions — the mentally retarded and mentally ill were not included; distribution would be through mailing lists provided by Wheel-Trans, the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped, Community and Social Services and other

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agencies, as well as through public libraries; using their Directory of Community Services as a basis, they mailed questionnaires to over 600 organizations in order to gain the information for the booklet.

*(Editor's note: 'Information for the Physically Handicapped' is available free from the Community Information Centre of Metropolitan Toronto. A large-print, spiral-bound edition for those with poor eyesight or difficulty in turning pages is also available at a cost of \$3.)*











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on the  
Physically Handicapped



International Symbol of Access

**Fourth  
Annual Report**



September 1979



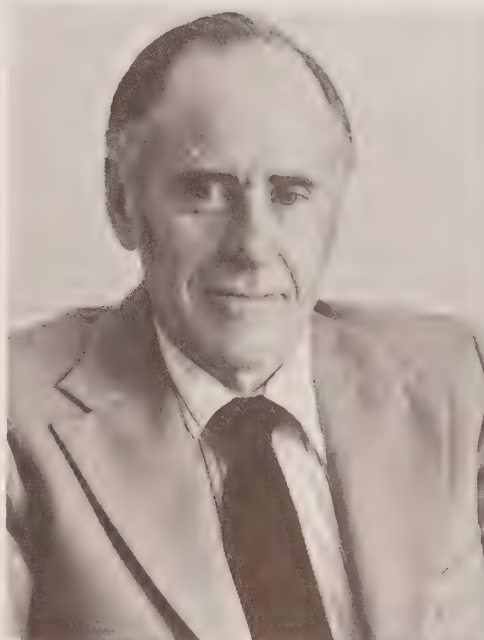
**Fourth Annual Report of the  
Ontario Advisory Council  
on the Physically Handicapped  
for the twelve-month period  
ending March 31, 1979**







The Honourable Margaret Birch  
Provincial Secretary for  
Social Development



Andrew C. Clarke  
Chairman  
February 1977-July 1978



Jack Longman  
Chairman  
August 1978-

# Organization and aims of the Council

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The Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped was established on February 5, 1975 by an Order-in-Council approved by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. The Council consists of a Chairman and not more than 20 other members who are drawn from across the province. Over half of the members are physically handicapped and all have had experience with agencies or organizations serving the needs of the handicapped.

The mandate of the Council is to advise the Government of Ontario through the Provincial Secretary for Social Development on matters pertaining to the well-being of physically handicapped persons. Its aims include the following:

- (a) to review present government policies and programs affecting the physically handicapped in the areas of education, employment, rehabilitation, income maintenance, health services, housing, transportation, recreation etc.
- (b) to make recommendations to the Ontario Government with the object of improving policies and programs affecting the physically handicapped
- (c) to promote the opportunities for the physically handicapped to create and participate in self-help programs so that each handicapped person may determine to the maximum his or her own lifestyle.

## Membership of the Council

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Andrew C. Clarke, Chairman (resigned)	Willowdale	Nellie Lemon	Cochenour
Jack W. Longman, Chairman	Windsor	Douglas F. Manuel (retired)	Oshawa
William Watson, Vice-Chairman	Keswick	Clare R. Millar	Cambridge
Joseph Arvay	Windsor	William L. Murdock	London
Toby Brooks	Ottawa	William J. Orr	St. Catharines
Gerald W. Cronin	Sudbury	Bluebell Planck (resigned)	Oakville
Lois Harte-Maxwell	Peterborough	Heather Rankin	Willowdale
William Hatt	Kingston	Maurice Richard	Ottawa
Albin T. Jousse	Toronto	Jackie Rodger	Toronto
John Kellerman (retired)	Toronto	Mary Sayons (resigned, since deceased)	Ottawa
Peter Kingsmill	Don Mills	Donald Warden	Stayner
Stewart E. Kingstone (retired)	St. Catharines	Marian Webb	Kingston
David G. Koivisto	Thunder Bay	John Yorke	West Hill
Athol Layton	Toronto		

## Staff

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Gerald F. Clarke, Executive Officer  
Norman D. Lawson, Administrative Assistant  
Leila B. Tikaram, Secretary



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# Letter from the retiring Chairman

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The Honourable Margaret Birch, M.P.P.  
Provincial Secretary for Social Development

Dear Mrs. Birch:

It is my privilege to convey to you the Fourth Annual Report of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped, covering the period April 1, 1978 to March 31, 1979.

At my request, due to pressure of other business, I was relieved of the chairmanship part way through this period and Mr. Jack Longman became Chairman. I am confident that Mr. Longman will provide excellent leadership to the Council and that he will receive wholehearted support from its members.

Since Mr. Longman's chairmanship covered a greater part of the period under review, I will leave it to him to comment on the specifics of the Council's activities during the period.

I would like, at this time, to express my appreciation to you for your concern for the physically handicapped and for your interest in and support of the Council.

I am deeply appreciative of the help afforded me by members of the staff of the Council during my chairmanship and of the goodwill and the dedicated efforts of the members in making Council the important advisory body that it is.

Yours sincerely



Andrew C. Clarke  
Chairman  
February 1977-July 1978

## Chairman's remarks

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When this Council was formed in February of 1975 I was very thrilled and honoured to be invited to be a member of it. Then in August of 1978 when the Honourable Margaret Birch asked me if I would assume the chairmanship of the Council I was again thrilled and honoured, as well as flattered. However, I knew full well it would not be easy to follow in the footsteps of men such as Edward Dunlop and Andrew Clarke. These men gave the Council a solid base on which to build and we are indeed indebted to them. Edward Dunlop taught us that the Council must have credibility in all its reports and recommendations as well as its actions. This standard was followed by Andrew Clarke and we are now at the point where the Council makes well-thought-out recommendations to the Government: recommendations which are listened to, respected and, in most cases, acted upon in one way or another. This kind of rapport must continue if the Council is to be an effective instrument for the handicapped population of Ontario.

While we always miss the advice of a Council member who leaves us, the new members that have come onto Council over the past three years have been extremely dedicated persons who have made a very real contribution to our work. It has been a tremendous help to me since becoming Chairman to find how willing members of Council are to help. I can truthfully say that every member I have approached to take on a committee chairmanship or some other task has agreed to do so most willingly, and all have done their work well. It is seldom that one gets 100% when asking for help but that is exactly what I received. I look forward to this continued support in the months to come. Certainly, while the Chairman may offer leadership, he is no stronger than those who work with him and I am indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated group. I appreciate it!

I have also had the complete cooperation and keen interest of Mrs. Birch and her staff. We maintain ongoing communication and usually meet once a month. I have had the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Birch for several years and of knowing of her interest in the physically handicapped; this interest and concern go through to the staff of the Secretariat and they too have given to me, and the Council, their complete support. While all of us could no doubt point out areas in which we wish the Government might do more for the physically handicapped, we must always remember there are many other groups also wanting the Government to do more for them. The Minister is confronted with some very difficult choices within the

resources available. I honestly feel the physically handicapped have been listened to through our Council and have had a fair share of the Government's attention.

While the Council year was a busy one on many fronts no doubt the highlights were the Public Forums held in Windsor and in Toronto. The Windsor forum was in April of 1978 and as a native of Windsor I was very proud of the meeting itself and of the presentations made to Council by the various groups in Windsor. The Council also had an opportunity to see the demonstration project ALPHA (Apartments for Living for Physically Handicapped Association) which was nearing completion at that time. The Toronto forum was held in November 1978 at the beautiful City Hall council chambers and again some most worthwhile presentations were made both by individuals and groups concerned with the well-being of the physically handicapped. While most of the needs and problems facing the handicapped seem to be much the same province-wide, nevertheless new positions and possible solutions are presented at these forums. As a result, our Council is much better prepared to deal with these issues. I look forward to more such public hearings in the years ahead. We are indebted to all the volunteers in both Windsor and Toronto who worked so hard to make the meetings so successful and as Chairman I extend my grateful thanks to all of them on behalf of the Council and the Secretariat.

The problems facing the physically handicapped in daily life are manifold. Accommodation and support services, accessibility, employment, transportation, just to name the major ones. While we tend to think these problems are faced solely by the adult handicapped, we must not forget there is a whole series of problems facing physically handicapped *children* and their parents. Council has established a Committee on the Special Needs of Physically Handicapped Children and this committee has come up with some very fine suggestions and recommendations that may be read elsewhere in this report. It seems only logical that if we can solve some of these problems in childhood, adult life should be more productive. But there are no easy answers to any of these problems. It is much too simplistic to say what the various levels of government should be doing, but make no mistake, government, no matter how well intentioned, cannot do it all. It is going to require an awareness by the public in general that these problems do exist, and that in the long haul it will be less costly to begin solving them by working



with the physically handicapped, rather than merely offering kindness and charity. There is a great untapped resource of handicapped persons who can, and would, make a real contribution to our society if only given the chance, but what chance do they have if those who serve in this area work 'for' rather than 'with' the physically handicapped? Our greatest hope lies in an aware public that wants to work *with* the physically handicapped in their quest for the 'better life.'

Without a doubt my greatest thrill during my short time as Chairman of Council was to be invited to attend the Throne Speech in March of 1979 where no less than four recommendations made to the Government by this Council were voiced and would be acted upon in the months to come. These areas concerned transportation, accommodation and support services, home care and a change in the disability pension that would encourage a pensioner to actively seek employment, rather than perpetuate the non-incentive to seek work that is presently built into the pension. While we realize that all of these proposals will probably have modest beginnings, and will take a certain amount of time to implement, they are nonetheless positive steps in assisting the handicapped towards an independent lifestyle, and this Council has advocated that since its inception!

We have changed our structure of Council from a series of Ad Hoc Committees to one of Standing Committees. Very often now the real 'nitty-gritty' work of the Council is done in committee. We are learning to appreciate this more and more, and at each Council meeting we look forward to the reports and recommendations of its committees and to the discussion that arises from them. I am sure this is going to ensure an even better flow of information to the Government on the various issues we have under consideration at all times.

I must give special thanks to our Executive Officer, Gerry Clarke and to the members of his staff who work on the day-to-day operations of the Council, as well as calling to our attention issues that might be of concern. Their interest and dedication have gone a long way towards making this Council the effective instrument that it is. The staff has worked with three chairmen now and I am sure that I have been one of their larger problems, if not the largest! However we have come to respect one another and this can only lead to greater rewards for all concerned. As you read in the following pages about the work of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped, remember always it

represents a great deal of very hard and dedicated work by the Council, by its advisers and by the staff. It is truly a venture in cooperation.

And what does the future hold for us? Our mandate is spelled out elsewhere in this report, but our goal could be summed up as 'A more independent and dignified life for the physically handicapped.' Towards this goal we shall continue to work knowing full well there is never likely to be a time when we can say, "It is over, we have reached our goal." However if those who come after us can say, "They laid a good foundation and did their work well," we will have indeed 'paid our dues.'

What are our concerns? Besides the problems already mentioned, I think Council is becoming more and more concerned with the overlapping of services and funding, as well as fund raising itself. Perhaps there are too many departments of government working for the handicapped . . . perhaps there are too many outside agencies working for the handicapped. When the public gives its dollars for the handicapped does it really know where they are going? For children? For adults? For special disabilities? I really don't think so! I fear there is a lot of duplication! With agencies working together, more of each dollar could be used for the physically handicapped persons themselves.

We are encouraged that the Secretariat has appointed Bob Waterhouse as Coordinator of Rehabilitation Services, and that various ministries are appointing coordinators to work with him. We have offered all of this Council's resources to Bob and look forward to working with him. Is it not time for the private (or non-government) agencies to look at their programs and funding to see if they too could not work more closely together? We think so and to these agencies we also offer the resources of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped.



Jack Longman  
Chairman  
August 1978-

# Major issues studied by Committees and Council, April 1978 – March 1979

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## Accommodation and Support Services Committee

Jackie Rodger, Chairman  
David Koivisto  
Donald Warden

### Monitoring of four demonstration projects

The reactivated committee discussed the four demonstration projects (Ottawa, Thunder Bay, Toronto and Windsor), with representatives attending from each. The committee recommended that the Council monitor the projects, which have no money to cover the cost of meeting, to discuss their problems and common objectives. The recommendation was agreed to by the Honourable Margaret Birch.

### Report on attendant care

The committee decided its first task should be to produce a report on attendant care. As a preliminary step, a 'Definition of Attendant Care' was circulated to Council members for comment in December 1978. It was later sent to representatives of the demonstration projects for their comments at a future meeting.

### List of residential facilities

A list of residential facilities for physically handicapped persons in the province — not health or rehabilitation oriented — was being compiled by the committee. The list would take in such residences funded under the Charitable Institutions Act, Homes for Retarded Persons Act, Ministry of Community and Social Services and Ontario Housing Corporation, as well as by community funds. Information will include administrators, phone numbers, number of residents and funding mechanism and is expected to cover about 300 units.

### Study of funding mechanisms

Under the Charitable Institutions Act and the Homes for Retarded Persons Act, an individual's pension (excluding comfort allowance) goes to the home. If s/he has any other income, payment has to be made to the limit of the per diem cost of that home. The committee is going to look at the Acts

that provide funding as well as the Homemakers and Nurses Services Act. This Act provides the basic means through which some handicapped individuals receive services in their own homes and is a possible mechanism for enlarging and improving services in the community.

### *Future action by committee*

- Meeting with four demonstration projects, April 26, 1979
- Adoption of 'Definition of Attendant Care'
- Report on attendant care
- List of residential facilities for physically handicapped persons
- Report on funding mechanisms

## Council discussion on accommodation and support services

### Specialized units for severely handicapped young persons

The Advisory Council has discussed several times the impracticalities of the services available to young, severely handicapped persons within chronic care institutions and nursing homes. At its May 26 meeting, the matter was again reviewed with the assistance of Judith Snow who is one of the group of severely handicapped young persons known as GOAL (Get out and live) from Lyndhurst Hospital. (The group had presented its concerns to the Council at its February 1978 meeting and Ms. Snow had also submitted a draft proposal for specialized units within hospital settings to Mrs. Birch.) In addition, Dr. G.P. Skelhorne, Consultant for Extended Care, and M.A. Winter, Senior Rehabilitation Consultant, both with the Ministry of Health, provided input to the discussion.

As a result, Chairman Andrew Clarke wrote to the Honourable Margaret Birch advising her that the discussion had reinforced the recommendations set out in Issue Six of the Council's report of April 1976 — 'Integration, Independence and Interdependence for the Physically Handicapped in Ontario — a Policy Focus for the Province.'

In his letter, Mr. Clarke said: "The Council recognizes that, regardless of support service programs outside institutional settings presently being considered by the provincial government, there will always be a certain number of severely handicapped individuals whose needs can best be



met by such institutions. We would therefore urge you to discuss this concern with your colleague, the Honourable Dennis Timbrell, with a view to thorough consideration and, where feasible, early implementation of the concept of specialized units for severely handicapped young persons within the appropriate facilities under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health."

Mrs. Birch advised the Council on September 22 that Mr. Timbrell was in favour of the specialized units proposal and his Ministry was investigating such possibilities.

### **Review of Acts affecting the employment and education of young physically handicapped adults**

Mr. Clarke again wrote to Mrs. Birch on July 27 requesting that the Ministry of Health review the Public Hospitals Act, the Health Insurance Act and the Nursing Homes Act in order that young physically handicapped adults in chronic care hospitals and nursing homes could engage in employment or educational and training courses. "The Advisory Council sees these provisions," Mr. Clarke said, "as being an essential part of the continuum of care recommended in its report of 1976."

At the Council's meeting on October 27, word was received from Mr. Timbrell via Mrs. Birch that legal counsel in the Ministry of Health had been instructed to proceed with regulation changes to the appropriate Acts.

### **Report of Interministerial Working Group on Group Homes**

The Council invited John G. Anderson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Social Resources, Ministry of Community and Social Services, to its October 27 meeting to speak about the report of the Interministerial Working Group on Group Homes, of which he was Chairman.

Mr. Anderson said that the Government of Ontario, as others, had realized the error of institutionalization — the group homes concept was a better way of approaching the accommodation question. The report defines group homes for the purpose of municipal councils and discusses licensing procedures and standards of operation. The Council's Accommodation and Support Services Committee reviewed the Group Homes Report but later decided to await action by municipalities before formulating any recommendations.

### **Concern re urgency and need for government programs and new legislation for accommodation and support services for the physically handicapped**

The following motion was passed unanimously at the Council's meeting on November 17:

Whereas at the Public Forum held in Toronto on the 16th day of November 1978, the Council received many briefs as to the urgency and need for government programs and new legislation for accommodation and support services for the physically handicapped;

And whereas many reports have been presented to the Secretariat over the period of at least three years, most recently a detailed report from the Interministerial Committee on Accommodation and Support Services chaired by David Pitt, Ministry of Community and Social Services, the contents of which are not formally known to the Ontario Advisory Council;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Chairman of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped do forthwith urgently request the Secretariat to release the Pitt Report and state its position as to the recommendations contained therein and particularly as to possible programs and legislation for the implementation thereof.

The motion was conveyed in a letter from the Chairman to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development on December 1. Mrs. Birch responded on December 11:

"I am unable to release the interministerial report on accommodation and support services for the physically handicapped . . . as it is a confidential Cabinet document. I am very aware of your concerns with regard to accommodation/support services. As you know, these issues are under active consideration at the present time and I assure you that the Council will be advised just as soon as government decisions on these policies are made."

*(Editor's note: The Council was pleased to hear in the Speech from the Throne on March 6, 1979 that "the Government will move toward a modest expansion of several pilot projects which were launched recently to provide special accommodation and necessary attendant care for the young physically disabled.")*



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## **Ontario Housing Corporation policy changes affecting the physically handicapped**

Rhoda Matlow, Coordinator, Community Relations, Ontario Housing Corporation told the Council at its March 2 meeting that policy changes affecting the physically handicapped had been arrived at out of the July 1977 study by Kim Harris — 'The Housing of Handicapped Persons in Ontario.' For practical application of the new policies, an operational definition of a physically handicapped person had been developed. (*Editor's note:* The policy changes and operational definition are on file at the Council office.)

The Council learned that the Ontario Housing Corporation was initiating two pilot projects, one in Sault Ste Marie (family units) and one in Niagara Falls (rent supplement units). Each would house three physically handicapped residents with live-in attendants, in two-bedroom apartments. The residents arrange for and pay their own attendant and the rent is geared to income. The normal restriction of unrelated people living together is being waived. The tenants are selected on the normal points rating system, with individuals already on the waiting list being considered.

### *Future action by Council*

- Follow up specialized units proposal
- Follow up regulation changes to the Public Hospitals Act, the Health Insurance Act and the Nursing Homes Act
- Follow up Group Homes Report
- Pursue concerns re accommodation/support services' policies
- Keep informed on O.H.C. pilot projects

## **Supplementary activity**

### **CCSD/OFPH meeting re survey into the delivery of social support services in the community**

Council members Heather Rankin and Douglas Manuel represented the Council at a meeting on October 12 called by the Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD) in cooperation with the Ontario Federation for the Physically Handicapped to discuss 'homehelp services.' Funded by a grant from Health and Welfare Canada, the CCSD was studying the delivery of social support services in the community. The meeting arrived at the conclusion, in summary, that social support services should be provided to

the physically handicapped person to allow him or her to live as independently as possible in the community rather than being forced to live in an institution.

## **Building Standards Committee**

Clare Millar, Chairman  
Gerald Cronin  
David Koivisto

### *Representatives to committee:*

Peter Ferguson  
E.S. Martin Construction Limited

Hart Frank, MRAIC  
Adviser, Building Code Branch  
Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Gordon Paterson  
Designer, Mechanical Engineering Branch  
Ministry of Government Services

Lyle Pringle  
Coordinator for the Handicapped  
Borough of Etobicoke

## **Proposed amendments to Part 5, Ontario Building Code**

As noted in the Council's Third Annual Report, a report on proposed amendments to Part 5 of the Ontario Building Code, including illustrations to clarify certain requirements, was forwarded to the Honourable Margaret Birch on August 1, 1978. In acknowledging the report, Mrs. Birch congratulated Committee Chairman Clare Millar and members who assisted him in this project "for their diligence in preparing such a comprehensive and thoughtful report."

On November 14, the Building Code Branch of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations wrote to say they had received the proposed amendments. They requested representation from the Council in discussing the proposed amendments with representatives of organizations most likely affected by the requirements of Part 5. Accordingly, Clare Millar and Gerald Clarke, Executive Officer, were named to the study group.

The group began its study of the Council's report on December 21 and was expected to complete its work in May 1979.

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#### *Future action by committee*

- Monitor administration of Part 5 of the Ontario Building Code
- Consider methods of funding alterations to existing buildings to make them accessible to the physically handicapped

## **Special Needs of Physically Handicapped Children Committee**

Dr. William Orr, Chairman  
Nellie Lemon  
Heather Rankin

#### *Representative to committee:*

Margaret McLeod

### **Concerns identified**

Having been largely reacting to problems presented for its consideration and possible solution, the committee felt the need to identify areas to which its attention should be directed. The following concerns were discussed (no order of priority is implied):

1. *What is the place of the handicapped child in the new Children's Services Division of the Ministry of Community and Social Services?*  
Physically handicapped children are expected to be included in this division within three to four years. When definite plans to do this are being made, the committee would like to provide input.
2. *The application of special education programs to handicapped children.* Since this is permissive legislation, it was felt that most of the relationship with Special Education must be at the local level where encouragement for help for certain children brought to our attention could be made.
3. *The resolution of the problems of individual children brought to our attention in various ways.* This is and will continue to be a prime concern of the committee.
4. *The response to briefs from parents' organizations as they come to our attention.*

The committee also underlined the Council's recommendation (originally made in May 1976) to include assistive devices for physically handicapped people as an insured benefit under OHIP.

## **New Psychologists' Registration Act**

This committee began to look into the question of the new Psychologists' Registration Act which apparently was an attempt by the Ontario Psychological Association to restrict counselling to psychologists and some social workers. However, the bill ran into significant opposition and was withdrawn for amendments. In August 1978, the Ontario Psychological Association and the Board of Examiners in Psychology submitted separate proposals to the Ministry of Health to provide a framework for controlling the practice of psychologists in Ontario.

There seems to have been little action since then and the committee is waiting till a concrete approach is developed before involving itself further.

### **Financial allowance for families of severely handicapped children**

Since the announcement in May 1977 that families who care for their severely handicapped children at home would be assisted financially by the Government of Ontario, the Council, and later this committee, monitored the development of this program. Initially, a great deal of insensitivity had been shown by case investigators. However, at the Council meeting on August 24, 1978, the Committee Chairman reported from a meeting with William G. Smith, Director, Provincial Benefits Branch, Ministry of Community and Social Services, that this seemed to have been overcome and the program was working more smoothly.

At that same Council meeting, a recommendation was made by the committee that Mrs. Birch urge the Honourable Keith Norton, Minister of Community and Social Services, to publish a pamphlet dealing with the availability of the financial allowance.

Two months later, the committee unfortunately had to report there were still problems with the financial allowance for the families of severely handicapped children. Several names and circumstances supplied by the Ontario Society for Crippled Children were passed on to Mr. Smith.

The committee was encouraged, however, when on December 15 Mr. Norton announced that eligibility for the special \$150 Handicapped Children's Allowance had been broadened and made simpler. Regulations to the Family Benefits Act, under which the allowance is paid, were



introduced to make it no longer necessary for individual allowances to be approved by special orders-in-council.

In advising the Council of these changes, Mrs. Birch also wrote: "Families who make application for a benefit to meet the extraordinary needs of their handicapped child will no longer be disqualified because of the level of family assets. Under the new regulations, the basic entitlement will range from \$25 per month to \$150 per month depending upon the age of the child and special needs associated with the child's handicap. The income ceiling for the maximum allowance per child will be set at \$20,000 per family. The previous ceiling was at \$18,400 for a family of four."

A pamphlet describing 'Handicapped Children's Benefits' was published by the Ministry of Community and Social Services in December 1978.

### **International Year of the Child**

In a letter dated September 12, 1978, Mrs. Birch requested the Advisory Council to suggest ideas to mark the International Year of the Child. The committee proposed the following and Council unanimously approved them on October 27 for forwarding to Mrs. Birch:

1. At present, Grade 1 Readers depict well-dressed, little, white girls and boys who can run, jump, skip and hop. The committee felt that a Reader might be composed to complement those already in use showing multi-racial children and some who might use wheelchairs and/or crutches. It is felt this would go a long way towards changing attitudes, not only of young children but of teachers and parents as well.
2. It was felt that the province might undertake to promote subjects of importance for children on a monthly basis e.g. nutrition, education, children from other cultures and the handicapped. The latter might be associated with the Easter Seal Campaign, March 5 to April 15. This sort of program would involve school projects, movies, speakers etc. geared to the children's ages and is being considered at the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre.
3. There is a need for libraries in children's wards of general hospitals. Materials could be easily obtained from parents whose children have grown up, offering them as well an opportunity to become involved on a voluntary basis.

The first two suggestions, the committee felt, might also be presented to the Honourable Bette Stephenson, Minister of Education and Colleges and Universities.

Mrs. Birch informed the Council that she had passed on all of its suggestions to Jane McKinnon, Project Coordinator for the International Year of the Child. The committee met with Miss McKinnon on January 25, 1979 and she told them about other I.Y.C. projects involving the physically handicapped:

- A 'how to' kit which is being prepared to assist the development of fitness and physical activities for disabled young persons.
- For children both blind and deaf, an expansion of the program at the W. Ross Macdonald School in Brantford from 33 to 48 students.
- A guide book 'Exploring the Environment with the Handicapped' is being prepared for leaders of handicapped groups.
- An Environmental Studies Workshop for Special Education Teachers will be held to introduce teachers of handicapped children to environmental activities which can be conducted with their students.

Early in March, Mrs. Birch wrote to say that her Cabinet colleague, the Honourable Bette Stephenson, Minister of Education was very supportive of the Advisory Council's concern that handicapped people be more widely represented in learning materials. Dr. Stephenson asked John Storey, Director of the Curriculum Branch, to present this matter to the members of the Circular 14 Advisory Committee, their liaison body with the publishers and the schools, for their study and recommendation.

### **Future of crippled children's treatment centres**

The committee met on October 26, 1978 with representatives from the Ontario Society for Crippled Children — Ian Bain, Executive Director, Joseph Cashen, Director of Services and Dr. Wallace Lotto, Medical Director — and with David Martin, Administrator of the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre. Their views were sought on the future of crippled children's treatment centres and of the handicapped child if primary responsibility passes from the Ministry of Health to the Children's Services Division of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.



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Some of the opinions expressed at the meeting were: no action should be taken without enquiries to and opinions from boards of directors of treatment centres; the Ministry of Community and Social Services has in the past been rigid in its approach to programs whereas the Ministry of Health has allowed some autonomy in the treatment centres, permitting modifications and new programs within the budget; perhaps handicapped children should be the primary responsibility of the Children's Services Division but the treatment centres should be left under Health; concern that, if the Children's Services Division became responsible for the approximately 25,000 physically handicapped children in Ontario, the range of services now available should not be cut back; concern that, if the Children's Services Division became more visible and more dominant in its position relating to physically handicapped children, voluntary people on boards of directors and in direct care of children would feel their active participation was no longer needed.

The day following this meeting, Judge George Thomson, Associate Deputy Minister, Children's Services Division, attended the Council meeting. He provided a quick overview of what his Division was doing and where they were. They run some programs and fund a huge number of others.

They have three objects: 1. Bring the services together and integrate them. 2. Develop the services. 3. Create children's services committees on the local level, responsible to local and regional government.

They want to match the child to the program rather than, as previously, the program to the child. They will be playing an advocacy role generally for children, the judge said. Programs for physically handicapped children had not been transferred to the Division yet but every program includes such children. They are interested in prevention — preventing tomorrow's problems while dealing with problems created yesterday.

In answer to the committee's concern that boards of directors of crippled children's treatment centres should be consulted before any change was made, Judge Thomson said he would guarantee there would be no decision without extensive consultation. They want to maintain the mix of voluntary and government.

However, the committee again expressed its concern at the Council's January 26 meeting that the transfer of treatment centres from the Ministry of Health to the Children's Services Division be

done very slowly. The committee also expressed complete agreement with Judge Thomson that consultation with the crippled children's treatment centres be undertaken before their inclusion in his Division. The Council unanimously agreed that these concerns be conveyed to the Honourable Margaret Birch for transmittal to the appropriate Ministers.

#### *Future action by committee*

- Monitor the development of the Children's Services Division and provide input where possible
- Pursue the Council's recommendation that assistive devices for physically handicapped people be an insured benefit under OHIP
- Possible involvement regarding the Psychologists' Registration Act
- Follow up ideas for International Year of the Child, especially a First Grade Reader showing physically handicapped and multi-racial children
- Monitor the possible transfer of treatment centres from the Ministry of Health to the Children's Services Division

## **Council discussion on the special needs of physically handicapped children**

### **Muscular Dystrophy Association presentation**

A presentation by the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada was made to the Council on June 23, 1978. The Council was informed that 80% of those affected by muscular dystrophy are children. The Association made nine recommendations which the Council discussed and responded to. (*Editor's note: The minutes of the meeting fully record this discussion and are available if required.*) It was noted that several of the recommendations reinforced those made by other groups, including the Council.

## **Rehabilitation Committee**

Dr. Albin Jousse, Chairman  
Walter Davis  
William Murdock  
Bluebell Planck  
Marian Webb

## **Recommendations re program under Vocational Rehabilitation Services Act**

Struck in September 1977, this committee reviewed in detail the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Act to determine the efficacy of the program for the physically handicapped under the Act. It was aided in this review by a report developed by two students employed by the Council through the Experience '77 program.

Input was also derived from communications and documents gained from consultation with representatives of the disciplines of social work, vocational rehabilitation, nursing and medicine who are active in the rehabilitation field. The committee members themselves are experienced in the area of study and were able to provide much input. A special meeting of the committee was held with Peter Crichton, Director, Rehabilitation Branch and Jane Atkey, Manager, Program Coordination and Development, both of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

During the lifetime of the committee, a number of issues was dealt with and tentative amendments proposed. However, simultaneously, steps were being taken within the Ministry of Community and Social Services to make such or similar amendments. The necessity of including certain recommendations in the report was thus removed. The final Report and Recommendations of the Rehabilitation Committee were adopted at the Council's meeting on January 26, 1979 for transmission to Mrs. Birch.

The following are the recommendations presented:

### **1 Client self-determination**

- (a) Client participation in decision-making should be encouraged throughout the selection process.
- (b) A realistic acceptance of the need to change programs as time and circumstances permit is a corollary.

### **2 Pre-vocational programs**

- (a) More intensive ongoing pre-vocational counselling should be provided, when necessary, commencing as early as possible in the program.
- (b) Pre-vocational work-testing programs of high quality should be established in Regional Centres having vocational units with necessary supervisory counsellors available. Such services exist in Kingston and a few other regions, under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Health and the Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

### **3 Counsellors' caseloads**

- (a) Counsellors' caseloads should be reduced to a realistic level, both with regard to numbers and the complexity of the disability.
- (b) Reduction in number may be achieved, in part, through referral of applicants with minor disablement who are able to carry a full program and function independently to Ontario Students' Assistance Program, Canada Manpower or other forms of assistance.
- (c) The number of counsellors should be increased appropriately in relation to the workload.

### **4 Counsellor training**

- (a) It is recommended that a graduate training program for counsellors be established in the province, leading to a degree in vocational rehabilitation counselling.
- (b) In order to maintain and improve skills of those engaged in counselling, ongoing in-service instruction should be intensified.

### **5 Selection committees**

- (a) It is recommended that submissions be processed expeditiously and comprehensively.
- (b) It is recommended that the selection committees include individuals with demonstrated experience and expertise in total rehabilitation of physically handicapped persons. The members should be drawn from within the Ministry of Community and Social Services' staff, community service agencies' staff and the socially restored physically disabled population.

### **6 Communication**

It is recommended that:

- (a) Following receipt of the application for Vocational Rehabilitation or Restoration Services, the client be contacted promptly (within a week). Thereafter further regular contact is essential between field worker and client, either in person or by mail or phone, to keep the client informed as to progress, delay or other issues.
- (b) To facilitate communication at all levels (in the interest of the client), frequent communication between those involved in the rehabilitation process would promote and sustain greater awareness of the client's progress.

### **7 Financial security**

- (a) It is recommended that various allowances provided under VRS, FBA or Canada Manpower and other government programs be standardised and be paid uninterruptedly throughout the year for clients who qualify for this support.



(*Editor's note: this recommendation has been implemented by the Ministry in the meantime.*)

- (b) It is also recommended that students who are completing high school after becoming physically handicapped be eligible for VRS support.

Through Mrs. Birch, a response was received from the Honourable Keith Norton, Minister of Community and Social Services, requesting the concurrence of Mrs. Birch and the Council to distribute the report to the Ministry's vocational rehabilitation staff throughout the province for discussion purposes. Having received this approval, Mr. Norton wrote the Council:

"When the Council's report has been reviewed by the staff of my Ministry, it may be that they will wish to discuss the recommendations further with your Council's Committee. It is important that the delivery of vocational rehabilitation services continues to meet the needs of disabled persons in this province.

"My Ministry is most appreciative of the work of your Council in this regard."

#### *Future action by committee*

- Pursue the implementation of their recommendations

## **Council discussion on rehabilitation**

### **Coordination of services for the physically handicapped**

Prompted by copies of correspondence from Dr. R.A. Durnin, Chairman of the Rehabilitation Advisory Board, St. Joseph's Hospital, Peterborough to several key people in the health field, both government and private, the Council discussed the lack of coordination of services in rehabilitation in the province.

Cited were examples of the physically handicapped being treated as 'an arm' or 'a leg' — not the total person, the lack of training of vocational rehabilitation counsellors, the lack of knowledge of what is available to physically handicapped persons from different ministries and the duplication of services. The Rehabilitation Committee agreed to look into these concerns, pointing out that counsellor training and coordination of services were already being considered by them.

## **Newly appointed Rehabilitation Services Coordinator**

The Council met with Robert Waterhouse, who was appointed Rehabilitation Services Coordinator, Secretariat for Social Development on January 2, 1979. A quadriplegic for almost 40 years, Mr. Waterhouse described his role as the coordinator of a team from eight different ministries plus the Workmen's Compensation Board.

When informing the Council of this significant appointment, Mrs. Birch wrote: "Mr. Waterhouse will be working to encourage greater coordination and cooperation in provincial planning for the delivery of rehabilitation services and the development of policy affecting these services. An interministerial team of rehabilitation coordinators will work with Mr. Waterhouse and in close liaison with each other in order to assist us in achieving more effectively integrated rehabilitation services throughout the Ontario Government."

The Council welcomed Mr. Waterhouse's appointment and looked forward to developing liaison with him in the interests of meeting the needs of the physically handicapped.

## **Role of the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled (CRCD)**

At the Council's January 26 meeting, J.R. Sarney, National Executive Director of CRCD, gave a brief history of his organization, formed in 1962. CRCD is a federation of provincial, regional and local organizations, agencies and institutions whose primary purpose, collectively and individually, is to meet the needs of the physically disabled. It does not provide a direct service — its members do that. CRCD is developing a national information service and a Technical Aids Supply Centre and Marketing Service.

## **Transportation Committee**

*Restructured January 1, 1979*

Marian Webb, Chairman  
Lois Harte-Maxwell  
Jack Longman



#### *Representatives to committee:*

Tom Gregor  
Canadian Paraplegic Association

Lyle Pringle  
Coordinator for the Handicapped  
Borough of Etobicoke

Margaret Young  
Ontario Crippled Children's Centre

### **First Driver Education Seminar**

On May 25, 1978, the Council co-sponsored with the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre its first and very successful Driver Education Seminar, with the organization being done by this committee. The purpose was to bring together from around the province those interested in driver training for the physically handicapped — equipment installers, instructors etc. About 35 people attended, including representatives from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MTC).

The committee hopes to have a larger driver training seminar in spring 1979, probably at the facilities of the Canadian Paraplegic Association at Lyndhurst Hospital in Toronto. Participation would be invited from occupational therapists, physiotherapists, local MTC inspectors/driving examiners, insurance companies and agencies, police, driving instructors, car and automotive accessory dealers, installers of adaptive devices, local Ontario Government Ministry officials and engineers.

### **Pamphlet for disabled drivers**

Based on information gained at the Driver Education Seminar, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications cooperated fully with the Advisory Council in publishing a pamphlet entitled 'Guide for disabled drivers in Ontario.' Considerable input was also given to this project by Margaret Young, Coordinator of the Driver Education Program at the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre and a member of the Council's Transportation Committee.

The pamphlet is designed to help more disabled persons in Ontario enjoy freedom of mobility in their own vehicles by providing information on choosing a vehicle, choosing the right equipment, driving instruction, insurance and tax rebates. It is being distributed through MTC Driver Examination Offices, Council members and various appropriate organizations.

### **Designated parking spaces at service centres**

Prompted by the committee's concern, the Council unanimously agreed at its March 2 meeting to write to Mrs. Birch asking her to request the Honourable James Snow, Minister of Transportation and Communications, to arrange for designated parking spaces for physically handicapped persons close to restaurants and washrooms at service centres on Highways 400 and 401. The Council was pleased to be advised by Mrs. Birch of Mr. Snow's response that all 23 highway service centres have designated parking spaces for the handicapped within close proximity to the facilities.

#### *Future action by committee*

- Initiate research by Queen's University School of Business on disabled drivers buying, leasing and renting vans and cars (including revolving cost of buying a car — low-cost loan, low repayments)
- Look into standardization and safety of adaptive devices
- Seek ways to disseminate information on all aspects of transportation for handicapped people
- Locate all existing adapted transportation systems — seek intercity and rural-city links
- Study the problem of rural transportation for the physically handicapped
- Arrange second driver training seminar

### **Council discussion on transportation**

#### **On-street parking privileges for the physically handicapped**

This subject had been discussed by the Council on several occasions. Due to a lack of consensus on the designation, by licence plate or otherwise, of motor vehicles driven by or for physically handicapped persons, little further action was taken. However, the Council had been approached by the City of Toronto's Working Committee of the Mayor's Task Force on the Disabled and Elderly to support the City's request for the Province of Ontario to enact general legislation which would enable municipalities to pass by-laws for identifying vehicles with physically handicapped passengers or operators and for issuing permits to identify such vehicles.

Accordingly, the matter of parking privileges being granted to physically handicapped persons by some municipalities was discussed in some detail at the Council meeting on August 24, 1978. The Council was assisted in its deliberations by C.J. McCombe,

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Director of the Office of Legal Services, Ministry of Transportation and Communications; Belinda Morin, Coordinator of Services for the Elderly and Disabled, Metropolitan Toronto Department of Social Services; and Martha McGuire, Coordinator for the Disabled and Elderly, City of Toronto.

As a result of the discussion, the following unanimously approved motion was sent to Mrs. Birch:

That Council recommend that the Province of Ontario pass legislation to enable municipalities to introduce, through by-laws, on-street parking privileges for the physically handicapped.

Also, that the appropriate identification on the vehicle be the responsibility of the Province of Ontario.

We would, therefore, recommend that you urge your colleague, the Honourable Thomas Wells, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, to review the appropriate legislation with the intent of introducing the necessary amendments.

We would further recommend that your colleague, the Honourable James Snow, Minister of Transportation and Communications, be requested to consider the introduction of a registration system under the present Vehicle Licensing Branch. Council members were most positive in their recommendation that such a system not be mandatory as some physically handicapped persons would prefer not to be so identified.

The Council was very pleased to learn that Bill 195, an Act to amend The Municipal Act, received royal assent on December 15. This bill enables municipalities to introduce, through by-laws, on-street parking privileges for the physically handicapped. Off-street parking facilities for handicapped persons are also covered under the bill, with parking spaces able to be designated for the sole use of vehicles operated by or conveying a physically handicapped person and such spaces prohibited for use by other vehicles. It is hoped that arrangements can be made between municipalities for the reciprocal use of such facilities.

### **Sales tax rebate on motor vehicles**

The Council had become aware that a number of persons whose disabilities render them unable to board and use public transit do not qualify for a sales tax rebate under the present criteria, because their vehicles require no special adaptation.

Having discussed this situation at its August 24 meeting, the Council asked Mrs. Birch to convey the following recommendation to the Honourable Lorne Maeck, Minister of Revenue:

It was the consensus of Council that the sales tax rebate legislation, as to the purchase of motor vehicles by the physically handicapped, be further amended to include those persons presently needing an automobile for personal use, but no special adaptation required. The Ministry could ask for a written statement from the purchaser of the vehicle, describing their disability and, if this does not prove sufficient, they could ask the purchaser to provide a letter from their attending physician, verifying the person's disability.

Mrs. Birch responded to the recommendation, advising the Council it had been presented to Mr. Maeck and promising to share his response as soon as it was received. At the end of the period this report covers, no response had been received.

### **Accessible train travel**

Early in August, a meeting was held between representatives of an engineering firm which was tendering for on-board passenger loading devices, William Owen, representing the Ontario Federation for the Physically Handicapped and Gerald Clarke, Executive Officer of the Council. Mr. Clarke reported to the Council on August 24 that Mr. Owen and he felt quite confident that all considerations, discussed earlier with the consulting firm involved by Transport Canada in the research and design of a train access system, would be adhered to in this tender. It is hoped the outcome will eventually be that all VIA Rail passenger trains will be accessible by the physically handicapped.

### **Bruce-Grey Transportation Pilot Project**

Don Groff, coordinator for the project, told the Council at its September 22 meeting their object is to generate transportation models which are alternatives to existing services. The project is designed for a broad range of 'disadvantaged' people — physically and mentally handicapped, elderly, financially limited and lonely. About 21% of the users of their service are physically handicapped. Mr. Groff told the Council their purpose was to bring services to needs, not just needs to services.



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## Policy on transportation for the physically handicapped

On November 17, the Council discussed the situation regarding the Government in relation to transportation for the physically handicapped. It was aware that an announcement of policy was expected shortly from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. However, based on the briefs and comments heard by the Council at its Public Forum on November 16, a motion was adopted to urge the Honourable Margaret Birch to do all in her power to speed up the announcement of the Government of Ontario's policy on transportation for the physically handicapped through the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

Mrs. Birch responded on December 11 that the issue was under active consideration and assured the Council it would be advised just as soon as the Government decision on this policy was made.

The Council was delighted when the Honourable James Snow, Minister of Transportation and Communications, announced in the Legislature on March 9 that "the Province will help municipalities applying for financial assistance for . . . specialized transportation services . . .

"As the costs for this type of service are substantial, the Province will contribute 50 per cent of the municipal cost incurred in providing services for the physically disabled — up to a limit rated on a per capita basis established as a result of our previous experience." Mr. Snow said the provincial support would be available as of July 1, 1979.

On March 12, Mr. Snow wrote to the Council, enclosing the 1979 policy summary for the new program of support for transportation for the physically disabled. He said: "The involvement of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped has been much appreciated over the course of the past few years in aiding us in the development of what we believe, and I am sure you would agree, will most suitably provide the mobility required by the disabled to partake of the everyday transportation needs that are taken so much for granted by the majority."

The Council Chairman wrote Mr. Snow "welcoming the new program and congratulating the Province and your Ministry in particular for this forward step." On the Council's behalf, Mr. Longman offered continued input to Mr. Snow's Ministry, whenever and however required.

### *Future action by Council*

- Encourage municipalities to amend their by-laws to provide on-street parking privileges for the physically handicapped
- Follow up recommendation to amend sales tax rebate legislation
- Monitor development of accessible trains
- Keep informed on progress of Bruce-Grey Transportation Pilot Project
- Monitor implementation of transportation policy for the physically handicapped

## Employment/Rehabilitation Committee

William Murdock, Chairman  
Gerald Cronin  
Dr. Albin Jousse  
Clare Millar  
Maurice Richard

### Employment concerns identified

As it was nearing the end of its review of the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Act, the Rehabilitation Committee was restructured to include employment concerns. In determining its own role, the committee found a lot of organizations were involved in looking at the employment needs of the physically handicapped. Recommendations will be developed as to how these resources can be coordinated for better use.

A woeful lack of specific data about employment of the physically handicapped was identified by the committee and others with whom they consulted. They hope to arrange with Statistics Canada to gain meaningful information in that regard.

The committee met with representatives of the Workmen's Compensation Board and the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto to familiarize themselves with existing programs and explore the possibility of new ones. As a result, they will be considering a number of interesting ideas.

The major problem for physically handicapped persons is getting employment initially. Once employed, they seem to be able to continue well, provided the necessary adaptations to their work facilities are made. The committee is therefore looking at ways and means of:



1. Encouraging employers to hire physically handicapped people.
2. Ensuring adequate and appropriate opportunities for obtaining education and skills to find employment in the current market.
3. Motivating physically handicapped persons to acquire needed education and skills to obtain employment. Two basic areas need attention: (a) motivation of person who has become handicapped during adult life and has to change lifestyle to suit; (b) motivation of children physically handicapped congenitally, by illness or accident — the influence of parents and teachers is a key factor.

#### *Future action by committee*

- Formulate recommendations on coordination of resources relating to employment
- Encourage development of specific data about employment
- Consider new program ideas for employing the physically handicapped and make appropriate recommendations
- Look at ways and means of helping physically handicapped persons find employment

## **Council discussion on employment**

### **Handicapped Employment Program, Ministry of Labour**

Barbara Earle, Women's Adviser, Ministry of Labour was invited to the Council's June 23 meeting to tell the members about the design of a handicapped employment program, initiated on April 12, 1978. A summary of the information provided by Ms. Earle follows:

Expect to employ physically handicapped people within the program but don't know how many — awaiting direction from Management Board; largest number of physically handicapped employed in the Ministry is through Health and Safety Program; due to constraints, not many physically handicapped people employed by the government; evaluating encouraging other employers as well to hire physically handicapped — an educational approach is being used plus one-to-one relationships with companies interested in taking affirmative action.

Ms. Earle said it is necessary to outline to employers that disabled people have the same right to fail as able-bodied people. Employers need to be informed how to deal with physically handicapped people and that the latter represent good business possibilities.

Among concerns expressed by the Council were: an educational type of program be implemented in the schools; hope that the Ministry is attempting to expand towards educators; hope that the program will give physically handicapped people the opportunity to try jobs they won't normally get; suggest involving Vocational Rehabilitation and Workmen's Compensation Board; suggest working with established agencies in the placement of physically handicapped people.

The Council offered its help in any way to the development of the handicapped employment program.

### **Employment opportunities within the Government of Ontario**

On December 15, the Council met with L.C. Saunders, Special Staffing Officer, Staffing Service Section, Civil Service Commission. Mr. Saunders told the members that the Council for Equal Employment of the Disadvantaged, a voluntary organization of 50 community agencies representing the handicapped, was formed about three years ago to develop a working relationship between member agencies and the Ontario Public Service. The Council provides professional expertise in areas where the Government is lacking it. It ensures the Government is completely honest when employing the physically handicapped.

It is the Government of Ontario policy that it is an equal opportunity employer, consistent with the candidate's ability to do the job. No preference, therefore, is given to handicapped people. The current constraint program, the Council learned, has restricted the Civil Service Commission's efforts to place physically handicapped people in the Public Service.

#### *Future action by Council*

- Provide input as required to the handicapped employment program of the Ministry of Labour
- Encourage the Government of Ontario to hire physically handicapped persons whenever possible

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## Public Awareness/Accessibility Committee

Athol Layton, Chairman  
William Watson

In view of the increasing emphasis in the rehabilitation field on making the public aware of the needs of the physically handicapped, the Council struck this new committee on January 1, 1979. With accessibility being so much a part of public awareness, it was decided to include it in the terms of reference.

### Update of Council's information pamphlet

The first concern of the committee was to update the Council's information pamphlet 'Who cares about the physically handicapped?' It explains the role of the Council, how it is organized, how it functions, what its goals are and the issues it is studying. The current membership of the Council is listed, along with their home towns, which are in many different parts of the province. Council members are assisting in getting as broad a distribution of the pamphlet as possible, not only to physically handicapped individuals and groups but to the public as a whole and the decision-makers in the community such as politicians at all levels of government, principals and teachers, ministers etc.

### Develop awareness ideas

The committee is now seeking ideas to get across the needs of the physically handicapped to the public and to the handicapped, as well as make the latter aware of existing programs to meet some of those needs. In addition, they wish to encourage the handicapped to pursue new programs for their unmet needs.

#### *Future action by committee*

- Distribution of Council pamphlet
- Develop ideas to make both public and physically handicapped aware of needs

## Council discussion on public awareness/accessibility

### Accessibility of provincial parks

Sparked by the interest shown by the Honourable Margaret Birch in finding out the accessibility criteria for the physically handicapped in our provincial parks, the Council discussed the matter at its August 24 meeting. Mrs. Birch had provided the Council with the reply she received from the Honourable Frank Miller, Minister of Natural Resources, and this formed the basis for its discussion.

In his letter, Mr. Miller pointed out that "the accessibility criteria . . . are defined in The Ontario Building Code. All new buildings, such as park offices and comfort stations, have included ramps, toilet stalls etc. All older buildings which are to be renovated, such as comfort stations, will have facilities added for the handicapped. This work will be done as funds become available.

"In some parks, trails have been hard surfaced for the use of the handicapped, e.g. Bronte Creek Provincial Park. In other parks, such as Wasaga Beach and MacGregor Point Provincial Parks, boardwalks have been installed in beach areas for accessibility for the physically handicapped. At the present time, engineering studies are in progress for the adaption of the transit services at Bronte Creek Provincial Park for the handicapped."

Mr. Miller enclosed a list of provincial parks that now have toilet facilities available for the physically handicapped.

Following the Council's discussion, the Chairman wrote to Mrs. Birch, expressing members' appreciation for her interest and concern in having initiated this correspondence. Mr. Longman continued: "Members of Council were dismayed that such information was not more readily available and suggested that it should be further publicized (1) by means of information offered by the Ministry of Industry and Tourism; (2) through Tourist Information Centres; and perhaps (3) by inclusion with information on provincial road maps."

The Chairman's letter concluded that it had been decided to approach the parks' advisory council inviting their Chairman to meet with this Council. At the latter's next meeting on September 22, Bill Sargent, Senior Planner, Provincial Parks Branch, Ministry of Natural Resources provided further information, a summary of which follows:

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130 parks in the province, with a lot of the old ones not designed for accessibility; Branch considers needs of physically handicapped in upgrading old parks but funding is a problem; trying to make new parks accessible from the outset.

Branch is presenting research document entitled 'Designing recreational facilities for the handicapped' to Provincial Parks Council; document stresses integration — parks should be usable by both physically handicapped and able-bodied persons; problem of transportation *within* the parks is going to be solved; considering identifying accessible parks in published list by use of International Symbol of Access; research document is only first step — excited about, and would welcome encouragement in, developing parks facilities accessible to all.

In discussion, Council suggested that assistance, possibly by students, be provided to handicapped people who wish to camp in the parks. Mr. Sargent was asked to take this idea back to his Branch for consideration.

### **National public awareness campaign**

Council was informed at its October 27 meeting that a national public awareness advertising campaign had begun in September. The campaign, funded by a \$300,000 grant from Health and Welfare Canada through the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled, consisted of print advertisements and television spots.

It was designed to change public attitudes towards physically handicapped persons. The print advertisements appeared in English and French in such magazines as Reader's Digest, Chatelaine, Homemakers, Quest and Time. The television spots, aired nationally, were also in both official languages.

### **Accessibility of schools**

Dick Lawton, Chief Architect, School Business and Finance Branch, Ministry of Education was invited to the Council's December 15 meeting to provide information on the accessibility of schools. The following is a summary of his remarks:

Special grant system started in 1975, including provisions for physically handicapped children; whenever any school board in Ontario is building, expanding or altering a school, the Ministry of

Education has to approve the drawings, which are examined with conveniences for the handicapped in mind; results fairly steady — installed some elevators, a few ramps and altered some toilets.

Pilot project approved for installing stair-lift — concerned about safety factor and possibility of vandalism; problem making older schools accessible as going through floor for an elevator costs a lot of money; when new schools built, asking for ramps to be included.

During discussion by the Council, Mr. Lawton said he sees a tremendous improvement in making school facilities accessible. He feels the Council can have an influence in acceptance by teachers of physically handicapped students.

#### *Future action by Council*

- Keep informed on all aspects of use of provincial parks by physically handicapped persons and make recommendations where appropriate
- Monitor progress in making school facilities accessible



# Other areas of Council involvement, April 1978 – March 1979

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## Public Forums

The Council continued to let physically handicapped people and the general public know of its existence, mandate and method of operation by holding two more public meetings. The second Public Forum was held in Windsor at the Art Gallery Auditorium on April 27, 1978 and the third at the Toronto City Hall on November 16 of the same year.

The Honourable Margaret Birch was in attendance at both forums and addressed the meetings, as well as responding to some of the briefs and concerns presented.

Approximately 100 people in Windsor and 250 in Toronto, including a significant number of physically handicapped, attended the Public Forums to express their concerns on such issues as accommodation and support services, transportation, income maintenance, accessibility, human rights, extraordinary costs, public awareness and employment. The Council gained valuable input for its committees and itself in helping to formulate recommendations to the Ontario Government on policies and programs for physically handicapped people. In addition, significant public education was achieved through coverage of the Public Forums by television and newspapers.

## Training in orthotics and prosthetics

Prompted by a brief prepared by the Crippled Children's Committee of the Rotary Club of Windsor on "the very great shortage of bracemakers in the entire province," the Council considered the subject at its May 26 meeting. Assisting with the discussion were Dr. Geoffrey Fernie, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Toronto and Otto Gerendas, Social Service Supervisor, Rehabilitation Branch, Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Dr. Fernie told the Council there was an urgent need for training in prosthetics and orthotics at the professional level and this has been recognized particularly in the UK and USA where university-level courses have been established. In Canada, George Brown College provides a two-year technician training course. It is proposed, according to information provided by Dr. Fernie, to add a two-year, university/college-level course in clinical prosthetics and orthotics centred in the clinical

environment of West Park Hospital, with additional clinical instruction at Chedoke-McMaster Rehabilitation Centre and the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre. It is planned to admit 10 full-time students per year and it is hoped, because of the urgent need to improve services to the handicapped in Canada, that this course will commence in 1979.

During discussion by the Council, Mr. Gerendas pointed out some of the problems he sees: the conflicting attitude in different parts of the province with different people — in Windsor, a shortage of bracemakers, in Kitchener, braces too expensive; producers get two messages — a standard of quality and a cost factor; the optional third year of the orthotic-prosthetic training program at George Brown College, in operation for eight years, has had to be cancelled on occasion as there have only been one or two students.

The following motion was unanimously approved after considerable discussion:

Recognizing the urgent need for upgrading of, and concerned with the lack of sufficiently qualified, professionals in the field of prosthetics and orthotics, Council recommends to Mrs. Birch that she urge the Minister of Colleges and Universities, the Honourable Harry Parrott, to look further into the feasibility of the proposed new program at George Brown College and West Park Hospital with a view to supporting any endeavours to upgrade the training of prosthetists and orthotists.

Mrs. Birch advised the Council on August 10 that she had received word from Dr. Parrott that George Brown College was making a presentation on the new program (outlined above by Dr. Fernie) to the Ontario Council of Regents for the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology. Dr. Parrott expected the presentation to be made in September and Mrs. Birch said it "should provide a good opportunity for discussion of the concerns which have been identified by the Advisory Council. I shall keep you advised of further developments." To date, the Council has not been made aware of any developments.

### *Future action by Council*

- Follow up on the proposed new program for the training of prosthetists and orthotists

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## Assistive devices

During the year under review, the Council continued to urge the Ministry of Health, through Mrs. Birch, to implement its oft-repeated recommendation that assistive devices be insured benefits under OHIP. The latest response from Mrs. Birch, dated November 28, 1978, said that while "no further action has taken place which would result in assistive devices being insured as benefits under OHIP, I can assure you that discussion of the entire subject is still ongoing."

The Council has consistently pressed for this important amendment to the provisions of OHIP since May 1976 and intends to continue to do so.

### *Future action by Council*

- Pursue the implementation of assistive devices as insured benefits under OHIP

## Human rights

### **Status of amendments to The Ontario Human Rights Code**

Encouraged by the statement by the Lieutenant Governor in the Speech from the Throne on February 21, 1978 that "in the meantime, however, the Government will move to protect the rights of the physically handicapped," the Council Chairman wrote to the Honourable Bette Stephenson, then Minister of Labour. He said the Council was prepared to work with the Human Rights Commission on the implementation of any such interim measures. That offer was acknowledged by Dr. Stephenson on April 6, saying she was sure the Commission would be most pleased to meet with the Council at any time to discuss the feasibility of implementation of interim measures.

However, Council members again enquired at their August 24 meeting as to the status of the proposed amendments to The Ontario Human Rights Code. Accordingly, the Chairman wrote to Mrs. Birch requesting that the Council be made aware of the situation at her earliest convenience. She replied as follows:

"It is my understanding that the Honourable Robert Elgie, Minister of Labour, intends to introduce the amendments to the Human Rights Code some time during the fall sitting of the Legislature if time for scheduled debates on

legislation will permit this. Hopefully, this will be the case; otherwise, the amendments to the legislation will be introduced at the spring session.

"I will be happy to keep you informed on this particular subject and will ensure that you receive a copy of the legislation as soon as it is introduced."

At this point in time, the legislation had not been introduced in the Legislature.

### **Inclusion of primacy clause in the Human Rights Code**

George Brown, Executive Director, Ontario Human Rights Commission, attended the Council's meeting on March 2, 1979 to assist in discussing the possible inclusion of a primacy clause in the Code. Mr. Brown said this would mean that where any legislation affecting human rights is in any statute or regulation, and there was any conflict, the Code would take precedence, unless the legislation says 'notwithstanding the Code.'

After considerable discussion, the Council unanimously approved supporting the inclusion of a primacy clause in The Ontario Human Rights Code. This decision was conveyed by the Chairman to Mrs. Birch in the following letter:

"As you are aware, the Advisory Council supports the proposed amendment to The Ontario Human Rights Code which would see the inclusion of physical disability as a prohibited ground of discrimination. We have also gone on record as being in favour of those recommendations which would have direct effect on the lifestyle of the physically handicapped.

"Your Council has discussed, on a number of occasions, including recent Public Forums, the need for, and possible benefit from, the inclusion of a primacy clause within the Code. After careful consideration at its meeting of March 2, 1979, the Council unanimously agreed to show support, in principle, for the proposed primacy clause, as set out in 'Life Together: A Report on Human Rights in Ontario.' "

Mrs. Birch advised the Chairman on March 13 that she had conveyed the Council's position to her Cabinet colleague, the Honourable Robert Elgie.



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## **Enforcement of The Blind Persons' Rights Act**

At the Council's meeting on March 2, the members discussed the case of Peter Field who was reported in the press as having been refused admittance to a restaurant because he was accompanied by his dog guide. It was also reported that Mr. Field was told by the police there was nothing they could do to help.

The Council had recommended in 1975 that legislation be enacted to protect the rights of blind persons and the use of dog guides by them. The Blind Persons' Rights Act came into force on July 1, 1976.

In view of Mr. Field's unfortunate experience, the Council asked Mrs. Birch to approach her colleague, the Honourable Roy McMurtry, requesting that police forces and other responsible bodies involved in monitoring the observance of the provisions of the Act be made more aware of such provisions. In addition, the Council requested Mrs. Birch to urge Mr. McMurtry to strengthen his earlier approach to licence-holders by emphasizing their obligations under the Act.

Mrs. Birch subsequently informed the Council that the Honourable Roy McMurtry had, as a result of the Peter Field incident, directed a memorandum to all police forces in Ontario reminding them of their duty to enforce The Blind Persons' Rights Act. In addition, the Ontario Police Commission Newsletter, which is distributed to each police force, contained a copy of the legislation.

Mrs. Birch wrote that it was not Mr. McMurtry's intention at that time to send out another reminder to all of the province's licensed hotels, taverns and restaurants. (*Editor's note:* In May 1978, the Attorney General mailed notices to those establishments, reminding them of their obligations under the Act.)

Her letter concluded: "Mr. McMurtry has asked that I convey to you his assurance that law enforcement agencies are endeavouring to provide every assistance possible to blind citizens."

### *Future action by Council*

- Monitor introduction of amendments to the Human Rights Code, including a primacy clause
- Monitor enforcement of The Blind Persons' Rights Act

## **Research of the physically disabled citizens of Ontario**

In the Council's Third Annual Report, it was reported that the Ministry of Health had agreed to fund a proposal for Research of the Physically Disabled Citizens of Ontario. In order to gain full information on the project, the Council invited Dr. R.C.B. Earle, Senior Evaluation Consultant, Strategic Planning and Research Branch, Ministry of Health to its meeting on October 27, 1978.

Dr. Earle told the Council the survey will answer the basic questions of how many people are affected, their distribution in the province and the cause, nature and degree of their disability. A 10-year projection model will be arrived at to give a guide to the numbers and types of disability that can be expected in the future. The survey will be done in three phases: 1. The design, which will take five months and from which a 'needs manifesto' for the physically handicapped will be produced. 2. Testing the design. 3. The survey itself.

Dr. Earle said a report will be made available to both the public and private sectors. He said the Ministry is committed to go beyond this project to the extraordinary costs of looking after physically handicapped persons.

Following the meeting, the Council Chairman wrote to Mrs. Birch to commend the Ministry of Health for undertaking the project, saying that "since the early days of the Council we have been seeking this type of information." He asked that she convey the Council's thoughts to the Honourable Dennis Timbrell.

### *Future action by Council*

- Monitor progress of the Ministry of Health survey

## **Income maintenance**

Council had discussed several times the possible loss of income by a physically handicapped individual who is classified by the Ministry of Community and Social Services as 'permanently unemployable' as opposed to 'permanently disabled.' It was realized that part of the problem stems from medical information provided by a physician on the Ministry's 'Form 4 — Medical



Report and Certificate in Respect of Impairment.’ This is then reviewed by their Medical Advisory Board to determine the applicant’s qualification for the GAINS-D or Family Benefits Allowance, the former providing about \$100 per month more than the latter.

Two doctors who are members of the Council were asked to consider Form 4 and submit suggestions as to how it might be improved. With the Council’s approval, these recommended changes were forwarded to Mrs. Birch on February 27, 1979 with the request they be transmitted to the Honourable Keith Norton for his Ministry’s consideration.

Mrs. Birch responded on April 9, enclosing a letter from Mr. Norton in which he says: “The involvement of the Advisory Council is timely since we are just in the process of commencing a review of the process of determining eligibility in respect of permanently unemployable and disabled persons along with a review of the structure of the Medical Advisory Board.” Mr. Norton said he had asked Dominic Alfieri, Director of the Income Maintenance Branch of his Ministry to contact the Council to discuss its proposals in detail.

#### *Future action by Council*

- Pursue recommended changes to Form 4

## **Shortage of pituitary glands**

In May 1977 and February 1978, the Council focussed its attention on the shortage of pituitary glands for the purpose of extracting hormones for the treatment of dwarfism. Council’s concern that the situation be rectified was conveyed to Mrs. Birch following both meetings, with the request that it be drawn to the attention of the appropriate Cabinet Minister.

The Council was therefore delighted to learn from Mrs. Birch in her letter of January 9, 1979 that royal assent had been given on December 15, 1978 to Bill 186, an Act to amend The Coroners Act, 1972. The Act permits a pathologist to remove the pituitary gland in the course of a coroner’s autopsy and to retain it for use in the treatment of persons having a growth hormone deficiency. This procedure will be followed except in cases where the pathologist is aware that the deceased person would have objected or if there is an objection from a member of the family of the deceased.

To quote Mrs. Birch: “As you know, this represents an enormous benefit to between 100 and 200 Ontario children who suffer from a deficiency of the growth hormone. The amendment clears the way to enabling these children to overcome this deficiency and lead normal lives.”

## **‘Day Hospital’ services**

A new concept in looking after patients who require minimal treatment was described to the Council at its December 15 meeting by Lorna McFadgen, Coordinator, Day Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Toronto. The program is goal-oriented with patients being discharged once they reach their goal. Day Hospital costs less than rehabilitation services and is restricted to five days a week. It goes a bit more slowly and is more flexible than rehabilitation services, Miss McFadgen said, and it has a social/recreational aspect. The administrative costs are covered by OHIP, with the only expense to a patient being a meal charge of \$1.

## **Special education**

Chairman Jack Longman, who had served as this Council’s representative on the Advisory Council on Special Education of the Ministry of Education for two years and was now being succeeded by Council member Heather Rankin, gave a brief report at the January 26 meeting. He noted that schools in rehabilitation centres are under the Ministry of Health, although the Ministry of Education occasionally inspects them.

The Special Education Council reports to its Minister at the end of the year. Some of the recommendations from its 1978 report are: A formal structure guaranteeing the inclusion of education representation on all local children’s services committees. Mandatory special education legislation for all exceptional pupils and the availability of adequate funding to implement such legislation. Incorporation of an adequate orientation to exceptional pupils into all pre-service teacher education programs. The launching of extensive in-service programs for all practising teachers regarding exceptional pupils. Ready accessibility of driver education to physically handicapped students.

Further copies of this report may be obtained at:  
Ontario Government Bookstore  
880 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario  
or by writing to:  
Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped  
3rd floor, 700 Bay Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1Z6

Vous pouvez obtenir ce rapport annuel en français,  
en écrivant à:  
Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped  
3rd floor, 700 Bay Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1Z6









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# Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped



International Symbol of Access

## Fifth Annual Report





**Fifth Annual Report of the  
Ontario Advisory Council  
on the Physically Handicapped  
for the twelve-month period  
ending March 31, 1980**









The Honourable Margaret Birch  
Provincial Secretary for  
Social Development



Jack Longman  
Chairman

# Organization and aims of the Council

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The Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped was established on February 5, 1975 by an Order-in-Council approved by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. The Council consists of a Chairman and not more than 20 other members who are drawn from across the province. Over half of the members are physically handicapped and all have had experience with agencies or organizations serving the needs of the handicapped.

The mandate of the Council is:

- 1. To advise the Provincial Secretary for Social Development on matters pertaining to physically handicapped persons in our society.
- 2. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing:
  - (a) to identify and study issues of concern to physically handicapped persons and, on the

basis of the knowledge and experience of Council Members, to recommend action where appropriate;

- (b) to encourage residents of Ontario to express their views on matters relating to the physically handicapped;
- (c) to promote opportunities for self-help for the physically handicapped in the context of family and community;
- (d) to review programs and policies affecting physically handicapped persons;
- (e) to advise the Provincial Secretary for Social Development on a regular basis of progress in the Council's work;
- (f) to submit to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development an annual report outlining the Council's activities and achievements.

## Membership of the Council

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Jack W. Longman, Chairman  
William Watson, Vice-Chairman  
Joseph Arvay  
Toby Brooks  
Gerald W. Cronin  
Lois Harte-Maxwell  
William Hatt  
Albin T. Jousse  
Peter Kingsmill  
David G. Koivisto (resigned)  
Athol Layton

Windsor  
Keswick  
Windsor  
Ottawa  
Sudbury  
Peterborough  
Kingston  
Toronto  
Don Mills  
Thunder Bay  
Toronto

Nellie Lemon  
Clare R. Millar  
William L. Murdock  
William J. Orr  
Heather Rankin  
Maurice Richard  
Jackie Rodger  
Donald Warden  
Marian Webb  
John Yorke

Cochenour  
Cambridge  
London  
St. Catharines  
Willowdale  
Ottawa  
Toronto  
Stayner  
Kingston  
West Hill

## Council Office

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## Staff

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Gerald F. Clarke, Executive Officer  
Norman D. Lawson, Administrative Assistant (resigned)  
Leila B. Tikaram, Secretary

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## Chairman's remarks

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This is my second message as Chairman of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped. In many ways we are still facing the same problems and issues, but I feel encouraged in that I think we have gone a bit farther down the road towards some of the solutions. While it is a painstakingly slow journey, like the tortoise we shall succeed!

This has been another very busy year for the Council and I shall not attempt to describe it in any detail here as it is well documented within this Fifth Annual Report. Almost every paragraph represents many hours of deep dedication and hard work by Council members, representatives to committees and Council staff. Very much of the 'nitty-gritty' work of Council is now done by its committees, be they standing or Ad-Hoc committees. To the chairpersons and members of these various committees, I extend my sincere thanks for all their untiring work and co-operation. Without them Council would be a mere shell. I urge you to read their reports fully.

Again this year two of the highlights for the Council were our Public Forums, one in Sudbury in May and the other in Cambridge in October. Both were very well attended and the presentations made to Council gave us a greater insight into the problems in these areas. While we might not have ready answers to most of these problems, perhaps in some way we did help bring them into focus in relation to what is being done in other parts of the province. We are indebted to Gerry Cronin (Sudbury), Clare Millar (Cambridge) and their committees for all their work to make the Forums the success they were. We also thank the City Councils and the citizens of both Sudbury and Cambridge for their warm hospitality.

Many interesting persons appeared at Council meetings and each of them educated us in the areas of their concern or expertise. They took time from their busy schedules to be with us, and the Council members join with me in thanking each of them. It is this sharing of their knowledge that gives us the background for many of our discussions and recommendations.

There were some changes within the Council's internal structure this past year. We had been working with the Secretariat for Social Development through Jill Hutcheon, Policy Analyst. However her new position necessitated that a new channel be arranged. We thank Jill for all her help and wish her well. The new channel became Bob Waterhouse, Co-ordinator of Rehabilitation Services and his staff. There is a real spirit of co-operation between our two offices and we look forward to a continuation of

this sharing of mutual concerns. Elizabeth Szalowski, Executive Officer of the Advisory Council on Senior Citizens, was appointed Senior Executive Officer of three Advisory Councils and assists our staff in their reporting to the Secretariat, and we look forward to working with Elizabeth. Norman Lawson, our past Administrative Assistant accepted another position and will be missed. Annual Reports, in other years, were to a large degree Norm's work. Leila Tikaram joined us almost a year ago and her interest and concern in the work of the Council is reflected not only in our Minutes but in many other ways as well.

Without a doubt, Council had more sincere and meaningful debates on issues this year than ever before, with many different viewpoints being heard. This is a healthy sign, for if we always agreed with one another it would be unlikely that all views would be heard and good decisions made. I think that while we have disagreed among ourselves from time to time, we have learned to respect one another's opinions and are willing to listen and discuss them at Council meetings. It is my hope that these debates will continue in the coming year.

Certainly the most contentious issue before us this past year was Bill 188, 'An Act to provide for Rights of Handicapped Persons'. It was unfortunate that the Government did not discuss this Bill with the handicapped community before proceeding with its introduction in the House. There were three different views by Council members. As well, various agencies and organizations serving the handicapped had varying views. The result was that the Government withdrew the Bill. While hindsight is always 20/20; in looking back and in the debates that ensued, I think it is fair to say that no one was all right or all wrong. Perhaps we can attribute it to the fact that we did not respect one another's opinions as much as we should have, or did not try and understand one another's reasons for those positions. It is hoped that we all learned something from the exercise! In the Throne Speech of March 11, 1980 it was stated that, in consultation with community organizations, amendments will be introduced to the Human Rights Code to protect the rights of the handicapped. Needless to say we all welcome this legislation and trust it encompasses the recommendations made in "Life Together", a report of the Code Review Committee published in 1977.

We mentioned last year, but it bears repeating, we are concerned with the many agencies both government and non-government serving the handicapped with often little or no inter-relation, resulting in some cases in an overlap or duplication and, in some areas real gaps in services. This problem begs for attention. We have also said that

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we would like to see more handicapped persons in decision making roles within organizations and agencies serving the handicapped. It must be remembered that no one, no matter how sincere or well intentioned, knows the problem facing the handicapped person as well as the handicapped.

This message would not be complete without some 'thank you's' first to the Honourable Margaret Birch and her staff for their continued interest and support of the work of this Council. All our recommendations and requests to Mrs. Birch have received her valued attention and appropriate action was taken. I would also like to thank our Executive Officer, Gerry Clarke, for his ongoing help and support of not only the Council itself but of its Chairman. Gerry is on top of the day-to-day operations of the Council and his advice is respected by all of us.

As 1981 is the International Year of Disabled Persons then 1980 must be our year to plan for this event. It is my hope that a good part of Council's work in the coming year will be toward this objective. This is a golden opportunity for the

Council and other organizations and concerned persons, to not only point out to the public the manifold problems facing the handicapped in day-to-day life, but more importantly an occasion to show the positive role the handicapped can play in today's society if given the chance. A whole new image of the handicapped can be portrayed to the non-handicapped, and perhaps, even to some of the handicapped themselves.

The positive gains made this past year in the better life for the handicapped more than reward me for the time and work put into my position of Chairman of the Council. To each of you who have worked so long and hard with me — again thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. W. Longman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jack Longman  
Chairman



# Major issues studied by Committees and Council, April 1979 - March 1980

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## Accommodation and Support Services Committee

Jackie Rodger, Chairman  
David Koivisto (resigned)  
Donald Warden  
Marian Webb

### Report on attendant care/support services

The subject of attendant care and its definition, was discussed at Council's meeting of April 1979. The following definition was then forwarded to the Honourable Margaret Birch for transmittal to the Honourable Dennis Timbrell, Honourable Keith Norton and Honourable Claude Bennett for their views and comments:

#### *Definition of attendant care*

"Attendant care shall mean the provision of such services, on a 24-hour basis, as may be required by a physically handicapped individual in order that all necessary activities of daily living can be accomplished in a reasonable time span.

Attendant care includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:

1. Personal hygiene including dressing and undressing, bathing, showering, grooming, shampooing, skin care, shaving, makeup, and bowel and bladder care of a routine and stabilized nature.
2. Physical care including household and personal laundry, light and heavy housekeeping, shopping, meal preparation and serving, feeding, care of specialized equipment, transfers to and from wheelchair.
3. Assistance in essential communication."

Mrs. Birch responded in July 1979 with the following comments:

The Honourable Dennis Timbrell agrees with Council's definition and feels it would be particularly useful if adopted for use by all ministries and agencies providing services for physically handicapped persons. His ministry is prepared to use the definition to promote standardization of terminology and clarity of intent when staffing for programmes for the physically handicapped is being discussed.

The Honourable Keith Norton had also reviewed Council's definition and feels that the components of the definition have been simply and clearly identified. It was of interest to note that the Ministry of Community and Social Services also

employs the term "support services" as a broader, alternative term which may be used to embrace all of the components the Council has identified, as well as some others.

It is particularly valuable to the Ministry that Council's definition is non-medical, as it is important to be able to distinguish support services from medically supervised services provided under the Ministry of Health's Chronic Home Care Programme. Most, if not all, of the components of the Council's definition may be included under Community and Social Services' definition of "homemaking services" found in the existing Homemakers and Nurses Services Act.

It is the intention of the Ministry of Community and Social Services to develop a consultative paper in the fall of 1979 on Home Support. As part of that process, the definition of attendant care prepared by the Council would be given full consideration.

On February 12, 1980, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, Adult Services Division, circulated to agencies, organizations and the Advisory Council copies of their "Community Dialogue on Home Support Services". They requested responses by March 10, with a meeting scheduled for March 25, 1980 to discuss responses to the publication. Council's Committee on Accommodation and Support Services was concerned about the limited time given for responding and felt that an extension of the deadline would allow groups the necessary time to prepare in-depth submissions.

On March 25th, Committee Chairman Jackie Rodger represented the Advisory Council at the meeting of Provincial and National organizations. However, because of the insufficient time given for preparation of an in-depth response, her remarks were limited to concerns about basic principles and to past positions Council had taken on some of the issues presented within the community dialogue of home support services.

### List of residential facilities

A list of residential facilities for physically handicapped persons in the province, excluding those that are health or rehabilitation oriented, was compiled by this committee. The list includes residences and/or projects funded under the Ministry of Community and Social Services through its Charitable Institutions Act and Homes for Retarded Persons Act, as well as those projects under joint funding by the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry



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of Community and Social Services. Information includes names of administrators, phone numbers, number of residents and funding mechanisms.

### **Monitoring of four demonstration projects**

The committee met with representatives of the demonstration projects in Ottawa, Thunder Bay, Toronto and Windsor. Meetings were held in April and September of 1979 and the issues discussed were as follow:

- **Rent supplement discrepancies**

In September 1979, tenants of the four demonstration projects, who were Gains-D recipients, were being charged various monthly rates. These rates were: Toronto (Clarendon, Ontario Housing Corporation) — \$43, Ottawa — \$47, Windsor — \$47 and Thunder Bay — \$75. The Committee was informed that a joint submission had been prepared by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Housing on the rent discrepancy issue. This report recommended putting the Private Market Rent Supplement Program of the Ministry of Housing (under which Clarendon and Ottawa are funded) and the Non-profit Program (Thunder Bay and Windsor) on a more equitable basis. It was anticipated that base rent would begin at the level currently utilized by the Ontario Housing Corporation.

By February 1980 the committee learned that this recommendation appeared to have been accepted and was in the process of being put into effect. Any remaining discrepancy will be looked into at the next meeting of the demonstration projects.

- **Up-date reports from each demonstration project**  
An up-date report on the orientation of new staff and incoming tenants was described by Ron Ross of Thunder Bay. Projects in Ottawa, Toronto and Windsor were discussed, with respect to tenants' applications, leases, waiting period of applicants, tenants' council, etc.

- **Fee-for-service issues**

A number of questions ensued following the discussion on fee-for-services. Basic concerns centered not only on the undesirability of implementing a fee-for-service in a shared-service situation but on a fair equitable methodology of calculating a fee where services are shared by individuals whose use of service is highly variable. However, these questions were left unanswered due to the absence of the COMSOC representative at the September 1979 meeting.

- **Selection and eviction process**

General discussion included the need for a more

accurate assessment of applicants in order to facilitate the selection process. At that time the ratio of eviction had been less than 1%, with a few voluntary termination of leases.

In November 1979, this committee, while fully approving the expansion plans of the Ministry of Community and Social Services, expressed concerns about related issues as well as the availability of existing services, and put forward a motion which was endorsed by council saying:

"That the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped write to the Honourable Margaret Birch re-affirming past recommendations regarding funding, fee-for-service, permissive nature of Legislation and definition of Attendant Care, as contained in the 1976 report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Accommodation and Support Services".

In January 1980, Mrs. Birch replied saying that "the latter issue concerning the most appropriate definition of attendant care basically stands the same with the Ministry of Community and Social Services preferring the broader and more encompassing term "support services". However, the Ministry is reviewing the various definitions, including Council's, in the upcoming survey on home support services.

Regarding Council's second concern on the use of a means test instead of income testing, the Ministry of Health is addressing the matter of extraordinary costs of disability by means of a research project on the needs of the handicapped. Results of this project are expected some time this summer.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Community and Social Services is actively reviewing its criteria under the current means test. Their programme objective is that adults will not have to pay for support services until ordinary and extraordinary costs are covered. The eventual result will be that only after the extraordinary needs of the physically handicapped have been met that an income test under the Homemakers and Nurses Services Act would be used to determine if an individual must pay for support services.

With regard to Council's third concern which relates to the permissive nature of the current legislation, the Ministry of Community and Social Services will be including the question of permissive versus mandatory in the above mentioned survey on home support services."

Council expressed concern that the components relating to the existing study of the physically handicapped was insufficient to address the many

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issues related to extraordinary costs and requested confirmation that additional research will be undertaken in this area.

The Committee discussed the possibility of holding a meeting with representatives of the demonstration projects in either September or November 1980, and would like to extend the attendance to include all facilities now being offered a similar funding mechanism, in an attempt to monitor how well it is working in other group situations. An emphasis would be on the problems tenants are experiencing in obtaining assistive devices.

### **Assistive devices**

Since May 1976, the Advisory Council has consistently been pressing for amendment to the provisions of the Ontario Hospital Insurance Plan (OHIP) to include prescribed assistive devices as an insured benefit.

On February 28, 1980, Council again wrote to the Honourable Margaret Birch requesting the present status of its recommendation on assistive devices. In response, a letter was received stating that the issue of OHIP funding of prescribed assistive devices is under review by an interministerial committee, and that there are several policy issues involved in the committee's review. It is hoped that the committee will be able to present its report to Cabinet in the spring of 1980.

### **Homemakers and Nurses Services Act**

The committee continues to meet with various community organizations and government to look at the issue of provision of services in general. In the course of their deliberation, the committee also met with various community agencies and government personnel.

## **Special Needs of Physically Handicapped Children Committee**

Dr. William Orr, Chairman  
Nellie Lemon  
Heather Rankin

*Representative to Committee:*

Margaret McLeod

### **New children's treatment centre — northeastern Ontario**

At Council's meeting on June 22, 1979 Mr. Joe Cashen, Director of Services, Ontario Society for Crippled Children presented the Society's concerns with the lack of adequate children's rehabilitation facilities in the northeastern regions of our province. He outlined a proposal made by the Society to the Ministry of Health for the establishment of a two-year pilot project in Timmins. Subsequent to discussion, the following motion was unanimously approved by Council for submission to the Honourable Margaret Birch:

"That a two-year pilot project for treatment of handicapped children, as proposed by the Ontario Society for Crippled Children, be endorsed by Council."

In a letter received from Mrs. Birch, it was understood that the Ministry of Health would provide funding to hire core staff consisting of an occupational therapist, a physiotherapist, a speech pathologist and a driver-attendant to initiate this project for a two-year demonstration period, as soon as possible.

On November 7, 1979 Health Minister Dennis Timbrell announced plans for a new centre in Timmins, which will provide treatment programmes and services for any handicapped child throughout northeastern Ontario. The new centre, to be operated by the Ontario Society for Crippled Children, will open early in 1980.

Mr. Timbrell in his announcement said in part, "The establishment of this facility would not have been possible without the continuing efforts and co-operation of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped and the Cochrane-Timiskaming Association for Physically Handicapped Children".

The Committee will continue to monitor the progress of this programme.



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## **Financial allowance for families of severely handicapped children**

Since the announcement in May 1977 that families who care for their severely handicapped children at home would be assisted financially by the Government of Ontario, this Committee has been monitoring the development of this programme. It was brought to the Committee's attention that a few families were encountering difficulties in obtaining the financial allowance. These cases were reported to representatives of the Ministry of Community and Social Services and there have not been any further complaints. Eligibility for the benefit has been made easier and applications are now being processed with far greater expediency.

The Committee will further monitor the financial allowance for families of severely handicapped children.

## **Other areas of concern to the Committee**

- It was felt that handicapped individuals should be more widely represented in learning/teaching materials. This concern was forwarded through Mrs. Birch to the Minister of Education, who was very supportive of the idea that a Reader might be composed to complement those already in use, showing multi-racial children and some who might use wheelchairs and/or crutches. This matter was presented to the Circular 14 Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Education, as well as to their liaison body with the publishers and the schools for their study and recommendations.

The Committee will follow-up on the proposed composition of the primer.

- At the present time the provincial government has four local Children's Services Committees across the province, on an experimental basis. The purpose of establishing such bodies was to co-ordinate the delivery of children's services at the local level by municipal officials, service providers and citizens, under the authority of local government. The Committee has been monitoring the programmes and services administered by the Children's Services Division of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.
- Dr. John O. Darbyshire, Director of the Human Communication Unit at Queen's University in Kingston spoke to Council in September 1979 regarding communication needs of hearing-impaired persons. Research involving institutions for hard-of-hearing and deaf was done to establish the needs for telephonic equipment, teletype captioning and sign interpreting on TV screens, hearing aids and safety and alarm

devices. Dr. Darbyshire said that early identification of the hearing-impaired child is imperative, and felt that more work should be done in this area. He also expressed concern with the generally low education level and felt there was room for improvement in the academic standard, of specialized teaching facilities.

Subsequently, the Children's Committee met with Rev. Robert Rumball who spoke enthusiastically about schools for the deaf and felt that much improvement has occurred recently, and the concern expressed by Dr. Darbyshire to this Council about the low academic expectations for pupils at schools for the deaf was not justified at present.

- The Committee met with Mr. Keith Whittaker of the Special Education Branch, Ministry of Education in December 1979 to discuss concerns regarding ongoing assessment of children. He explained the guidelines of the Ministry of Education whereby assessment of all children would occur in kindergarten or early grade 1. This assessment involves a medical and social history of the child and a parent/teacher interview.

Concern was expressed that a child might be kept in an institution without good reason. However, Mr. Whittaker felt this was unlikely, as there has been much interest in returning patients to their homes, and reviews were undertaken frequently.

## **Employment/Rehabilitation Committee**

William Murdock, Chairman  
Gerald Cronin  
Dr. Albin Jousse  
Clare Millar  
Maurice Richard

The Employment/Rehabilitation Committee, established by Council in September 1978, has been trying to examine any and all facets of employment for the handicapped, and to be aware of developments in the area of rehabilitation. This Committee met with representatives of several organizations, including Canada Employment and Immigration; Manpower; Ministry of Labour; Workmen's Compensation Board; Ministry of Community and Social Services, Vocational Rehabilitation Branch; Social Planning Council of Metro Toronto; Jewish Vocational Services; Canadian National Institute for the Blind; etc.



## Employment concerns identified

The major problem for physically handicapped persons is to obtain initial employment. Once employed they seem to be able to continue satisfactorily provided that the necessary adaptations to their work facilities are made. The Committee looked at ways and means of:

- (a) Developing resource information on technical aids required for handicapped persons.
- (b) Co-ordinating the use of resource persons and providing relevant information to employers.
- (c) Motivating physically handicapped persons to acquire needed education and skills to obtain employment.

## Recommendations re Committee's concerns

The Committee presented its report and recommendations pertaining to employment and rehabilitation, at Council's meeting on February 15, 1980 as follows:

1. *Motivation and adequate education from early childhood.*
  - A component should be added to all teachers' training to enable them to assist physically handicapped children to achieve their full potential.
2. *Review of the various kinds of services available to the handicapped.*
  - Specific training with respect to the special physical, emotional and social needs, as well as knowledge of the realistic potential of the handicapped, be provided to parents, doctors, nurses, social workers and other professionals, who are involved in treating, advising and counselling handicapped persons.
3. *More handicapped people be employed in decision making positions with respect to the handicapped.*
  - The Government of Ontario, wherever possible, and providing the qualifications are suitable, should employ handicapped persons to work with the handicapped in various ministry programmes. Private agencies should also be encouraged to do so.
4. *Variation of services provided to the handicapped.*
  - The Government of Ontario should make a concentrated effort to develop consistency in the resources and services regardless of the cause of the disability.
5. *Training or retraining for handicapped persons.*
  - Government resources should be directed so as to enable handicapped persons, whenever possible, to participate in existing programmes and to obtain full standing in the occupational area. While this direction should receive primary emphasis, it is also recognized that specialized training programmes may sometimes be warranted.
6. *Specialized training for employment.*
  - Wherever specialized training is undertaken through rehabilitation centres, workshops, training on the job or in other ways, such programmes should be monitored, and if found necessary, be supervised by the Ministry of Labour to ensure that the training will enable the handicapped person to be suitable for present and future employment.
7. *Job assessment or employment training services for the handicapped.*
  - These services should be operated separately from sheltered workshops or production workshops.
8. *Technical aids or special assistive devices for the handicapped.*
  - Because technical aids or special assistive devices are often required for the physically handicapped person to obtain or maintain employment, necessary specialized equipment should be provided through the appropriate Ministry without cost to the handicapped.
9. *Development of a comprehensive catalogue of assistive devices and specialized equipment for the handicapped.*
  - The Government, through the appropriate ministry or agency, should develop a catalogue of specialized equipment for the handicapped, indicating details of cost, availability, effectiveness, etc. Handicapped persons and those who work with the handicapped should be made aware of the existence and availability of such a catalogue.
10. *Servicing specialized equipment.*
  - The Government should use its resources and influence to establish a province-wide service facility or facilities for such equipment and devices, and provision be made to loan the handicapped person equivalent equipment while servicing is carried out.

11. *Matching handicapped to employment opportunities.*
  - The Ministry of Labour should officially establish a central job registry for the physically handicapped. Such a registry should be available on a voluntary basis to the handicapped, employers and job placement workers.
12. *Direction and co-ordination of research programmes.*
  - The Government, through the appropriate Office or Ministry, should establish a central source to co-ordinate research and development of equipment.

### **Research in Sudbury**

As a result of a Public Forum held on May 24, 1979 in Sudbury and in response to some of the issues brought forward at the Forum, a research project was implemented to determine the nature and extent of rehabilitation services in Sudbury and the surrounding region. It was felt that one of the major problems was a lack of industrial diversity in Sudbury, thus, an enlarged sheltered workshop for the physically handicapped may be one practicable solution.

### **Employment kit**

The Ministry of Labour, with input from the Employment/Rehabilitation Committee, has prepared an 'employment kit' to promote the employment of handicapped persons. It contains information relating to various aspects of employment of the physically handicapped.

## **Transportation Committee**

Marian Webb, Chairman  
Joe Arvay  
Lois Harte-Maxwell  
Jack Longman

### *Representatives to committee:*

Ed Blake  
Tom Gregor  
Lyle Pringle  
Margaret Young

### **Driver Education Seminar**

The Second Driver Training Seminar was held on June 15, 1979, co-sponsored by the Council, the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre and the Canadian Paraplegic Association with the organization being done by this Committee. The purpose was to bring together those interested in driver training for the physically handicapped. The Seminar attracted many registrants, including occupational therapists, physiotherapists, driving instructors, as well as representatives of insurance companies, agencies for the physically handicapped, and provincial government ministries. The Committee plans to co-sponsor another Seminar in spring 1980 at the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre and Glendon College in Toronto and funds will be sought from the Secretary of State's Office to assist consumers in attending.

### **Designated parking spaces at service centres**

This Committee has been concerned about designated parking spaces at service centres on Highways 400 and 401 and suggested that signs marking parking spaces for the handicapped be placed in appropriate positions, i.e. on raised posts. On November 21, 1979 the Advisory Council wrote to the Honourable James Snow regarding the apparent lack of designated parking spaces. In response, Mr. Snow stated that appropriate action is being taken to ensure that all centres maintain proper identification of such spaces.

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications will be asked by this Committee to inspect and monitor service centres on Highways 400 and 401, and report back as to what action has been taken to improve identification of parking spaces for the handicapped.



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## **Research on financial assistance in the acquisition of motor vehicles by physically handicapped individuals**

This Committee was interested in researching the amount of money involved in setting up a fund to provide vehicles, either vans or cars, which could be adapted and provided to physically disabled people to enable them to increase their mobility.

The Committee contacted the School of Business Administration, Queen's University, who did a similar research project regarding financing for the Kingston Bus for the Handicapped, for help in conducting the research. The research project was completed and a detailed report was received from Queen's University. The Transportation Committee now hopes to submit recommendations in this regard after they contact selected organizations and companies to invite their participation in co-sponsoring the plan.

## **Pamphlet for disabled drivers**

The pamphlet designed to help more disabled persons in Ontario enjoy freedom of mobility in their own vehicles by providing information on choosing a vehicle, driver assessment and training programmes and tax rebates, was produced jointly by the Council and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. The first edition of the pamphlet was very well received and was updated and reprinted.

## **Self-serve gas stations**

The Committee met with representatives of the Ontario Petroleum Association and the Fuels Safety Branch of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations in July 1979, to discuss its concern that handicapped motorists are subjected to difficulties at self-serve gas stations. Handicapped drivers may be able to establish an arrangement with particular outlets in their own neighbourhood but in unfamiliar areas the problems do arise. It was suggested that access signs be posted at gas stations to indicate assistance available for handicapped drivers.

In a letter received from the Fuels Safety Branch it was stated a survey of their records showed that of some 10,000 service stations in Ontario less than 900 are self-serve.

Of the 900 it is estimated that more than 50% have some other activity in addition to the dispensing of gasoline. Personnel are available to help the handicapped driver on request at most stations, and it is anticipated that there will be no great increase in the number of 'self-serves' compared with 'full service' stations — in fact it is expected that any change will be in the opposite direction.

A brochure entitled "Your Guide to Full Service Gasoline Facilities" prepared by the Ontario Petroleum Association, outlines the locations of 'full service' gasoline facilities within the Municipalities of Mississauga, Brampton, Vaughan, Markham, Pickering, Scarborough, North York, Etobicoke, East York, York and Toronto.

The brochure contains a map of each Municipality with the facilities located and numbered. Additional information in this regard can be obtained from the Ontario Petroleum Association, 2300 Yonge Street, Box 2383, Toronto, Ontario, M4P 1E4 telephone (416) 484-7214.

## **On-street parking privileges for the physically handicapped**

Bill 195, an 'Act to amend The Municipal Act' received royal assent on December 15, 1979. The Bill enables municipalities to introduce on-street parking privileges for the physically handicapped through special by-laws. Off-street parking facilities for the handicapped are also covered under the Bill which provides for parking spaces to be designated for the sole use of vehicles operated by or conveying a physically handicapped person, and such spaces are prohibited for use by other vehicles.

The Committee will continue to monitor municipalities and their by-laws with respect to both on-street and off-street parking for the physically handicapped.

## **Research on wheelchair tie-down systems**

As a result of concerns expressed, Professor H. Wevers of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Queen's University in Kingston, was provided by this Committee with pertinent information and was asked to design a research project for an improved tie-down system for wheelchairs in vans, and driver restraint system for cars and vans. The matter was discussed with representatives of the Kingston Bus for the Handicapped, the local consumers, and Council's Transportation Committee Chairman, Marian Webb.



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The Advisory Council endorsed Professor Wever's proposal and request for a grant to carry out the research. Both the proposal and endorsement for a grant were submitted to the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. The grant was approved and it is hoped that the project will start in May 1980. The project will be monitored by this Committee.

### **Sales tax rebate on motor vehicles**

It was the consensus of Council that the sales tax rebate legislation, regarding the purchase of motor vehicles for use by the physically handicapped, be further amended to include those persons presently needing an automobile for personal use, but with no special adaptation required. Council also recommended that the Ministry of Revenue could ask for a written statement, from purchasers of vehicles, describing their disability and, if this does not prove sufficient, they could ask the purchasers to provide a letter from their attending physician, verifying the persons' disability.

Council forwarded this matter of concern, through the Honourable Margaret Birch, to the Honourable Lorne Maeck, Minister of Revenue sometime ago. At the end of the period this report covers, no firm response had been received. The Committee plans to follow-up this matter.

### **Rural transportation needs**

Rural transportation for the physically handicapped remains a matter of concern for this Committee.

At its meeting of February 1980, Council was presented with a brief from the Barrie & District Association expressing their concerns relating to transportation needs of the physically handicapped in rural areas. Some of the concerns expressed were:

- The need to acquire reasonably accurate information, i.e., frequency of travel, destinations, etc.
- To establish an economical and practical transportation system in areas where there is no municipal transit to relate to, and where there are varying and sometimes overlapping jurisdictions, i.e., Town, Village, Township, County
- To enable users to have reasonable access to transit with little or no more financial hardship than those in urban areas

Subsequent to further discussions, the following motion was adopted unanimously:

"The Transportation Committee feels that the submission from the Barrie & District Association for the Physically Disabled re-affirms the needs of attention to and action on rural transportation problems, as mentioned in the Council's last annual report.

The Transportation Committee would draw attention to the Bruce/Grey study funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and would like an update on what action has been taken on the recommendations of that study.

The Committee therefore recommends that the Advisory Council forward the report to the Minister, together with the above-mentioned concerns, as well as a copy of the Guelph study, supported by the Federal Government, especially since rural areas are not included in the present transportation policy and programmes of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications."

Mrs. Birch, in response to the above concerns expressed, forwarded copies of the reports to the Honourable Keith Norton and the Honourable James Snow for their review and comments.

### **Accessibility of public transportation systems**

On November 26 and 27, 1979 the Canadian Transport Commission (C.T.C.), held public meetings in Ottawa to discuss the problems of the handicapped with regard to public transportation under federal jurisdiction. In a letter to C.T.C., Council made the following statement:

"The Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped and its Transportation Committee urge the Canadian Transport Commission to ensure that air and rail transportation, and the terminals and facilities which support such transportation, be made totally accessible to physically handicapped persons."

In January 1980, the Premier announced the establishment of a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Margaret Scrivener, M.P.P. to develop a provincial perspective on the future of rail transportation in the province of Ontario.

In responding to a request from the Ontario Task Force on Provincial Rail Policy, the Council reiterated its position as outlined in the above statement, and expressed willingness to appear before the Task Force and discuss this issue further at any time.

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## Public Awareness/Accessibility Committee

Athol Layton, Chairman  
Joe Arvay  
William Hatt  
William Watson

The Committee was established on January 1, 1979 with emphasis on making the public aware of the needs of the physically handicapped. In the terms of reference, 'accessibility' was included as it is so much a part of public awareness.

### Develop awareness ideas

The Committee has proposed the idea of a Caravan during 1981 — The International Year of Disabled Persons, to move around the urban and rural areas providing information to the physically handicapped on programmes and services available, and make the public aware of the concerns and abilities of the handicapped.

It is hoped that this project would be undertaken by the Ontario Youth Secretariat; work will be done in conjunction with local volunteers; and that the students hired to work will also include handicapped youths.

### Accessibility of cultural and recreational facilities

At Council's meeting on June 22, 1979 the Committee expressed concern with the funding freeze which the Ministry of Culture and Recreation had put on adaptation of buildings. As a result of discussion, the following motion was approved unanimously.

"That Council Chairman Jack Longman write to the Honourable Margaret Birch requesting she urge her colleague, the Honourable Reuben Baetz to consider lifting the Wintario freeze on modification to existing culture and recreational facilities in order to make them accessible to the physically handicapped."

In response Mrs. Birch stated that the Ministry of Culture and Recreation was undertaking a province-wide review of all cultural and recreational facilities and programmes. In addition, a survey of unmet needs has also been undertaken, and on the basis of this inventory and study of needs, the Ministry will be able to set priorities and criteria for future capital grants programmes.

On February 14, 1980 Mr. Baetz announced the guiding principles of the 1980-81 Wintario Community Grants Program. In a letter, dated March 3, 1980 to Mr. Baetz, Council wrote: "Until the freeze on the Capital Grants Program is removed many facilities remain inaccessible to the physically handicapped. We are certain that the 'freeze' was not intended to further inconvenience these people, and urge you to reconsider it in light of your expressed strong emphasis on reaching 'all the people of Ontario'."

Mr. Baetz responded by advising that the suspension of the Capital Grants Program was a temporary one and that he hoped to be able to announce a new programme in the very near future.

### *Future action by committee*

- Continue to develop ideas to make the public aware of the concerns and abilities of the handicapped, and to make the handicapped aware of programmes and services available to them
- Follow-up on the Wintario Capital Grants Program of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation with the hope that Mr. Baetz will recognize the urgency of the handicapped being able to enjoy the recreational facilities that are denied to them through the lack of accessibility
- Work closely with the other committees of council on matters pertaining to public awareness



# Other areas of Council involvement, April 1979-March 1980

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## Duplication of services and fund raising among agencies

From time to time Council members have felt that there was an overlap of services and fund raising among agencies working with and for physically handicapped people. At the April 27, 1979 meeting members unanimously approved a letter to be submitted to the Honourable Margaret Birch. In his letter, the Chairman wrote: "There was real concern that the numerous agencies — both government and non-government — may very well be competing for clients, charity and government dollars. The result of this being perhaps costly administration, less than adequate delivery of service and confusion in the minds of the public as to the use of their tax and charity dollars."

There was a consensus that all the major agencies should meet to at least begin discussion on this concern. The Chairman suggested that the Secretariat for Social Development, from both a government and non-government position, would be the logical office to convene such a meeting.

The Chairman offered the co-operation and assistance of the Council in such an endeavour and Mrs. Birch responded positively by setting up a committee charged with planning a Fall Forum for the Physically Disabled, under the Chairmanship of Jack Longman. At the September 21, 1979 Council meeting, the Chairman reported that, due to difficulties in the organizational plans, the Planning Committee had recommended the Forum be postponed till spring 1980.

## Special education

### Advisory Council on Special Education

Heather Rankin continued to represent the Council on the Advisory Council on Special Education of the Ministry of Education. The Special Education Council met on February 13 and 14, 1979, and discussed at length the role and usefulness of the Council. The members reflected on the effectiveness of the Council and questioned its impact in the future due to infrequent meetings.

### Special education services within the Detroit, Michigan school system

Joyce Bear, psychologist with the Detroit Board of Education, attended Council's meeting on August 23, 1979. She gave an overview of special

education services for the physically handicapped in Detroit and outlined some of the programmes available for physically handicapped children in special education schools.

The Michigan Special Education Code establishes maximum class sizes for special education programmes — six or seven pupils in some instances, ten to fifteen in others. A comprehensive range of special education programmes and services is available to handicapped children from birth through age twenty-five. After age twenty-five, other agencies take care of them.

An Education Planning and Placing Committee decides as to whether a child goes to a special school or to a regular school where s/he might receive special education as well. Each child has an individual education plan which is reviewed annually. Transportation to special schools is included in the programme. Schools providing special education services in Detroit receive funding from all three levels of government — federal, state and municipal.

## "We'll find a way" seminar

Members Heather Rankin and Bill Hatt represented the Council at a conference co-sponsored by the Ontario Federation for the Physically Handicapped and the Ministry of Education, held in Toronto on September 27, 28 and 29, 1979. Its goals were:

1. Focus attention on the educational needs of students with physical handicaps.
2. Discuss issues and develop strategies to provide equal educational opportunities.
3. Investigate available grants and services for providing appropriate education.
4. Learn how to create a climate of acceptance for students with physical handicaps.

The conference programme included talks, workshops, films dealing with many areas of daily living for disabled persons as well as displays of special equipment, toys and educational materials for physically handicapped children.

## Study group on Part 5, Ontario Building Code

In December 1978, the Building Code Branch of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations set up a group comprised of representatives of organizations most likely to be affected by the requirements of Part 5 of the Building Code, to study Council's report on proposed amendments to that section of the Code and report back to the



Branch. Clare Millar, Chairman of the Council's Building Standards Committee, and Gerald Clarke, Executive Officer, were included in the study group.

At the June 22, 1979 meeting of the Council Mr. Millar stated that the study group had completed its task and that organizations represented on the group and others who had expressed interest would have an opportunity to give their final approval. The final draft would then go to the Ministry's regulation committee and it was expected to reach the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations by fall 1979.

As a result of no further response, a motion was passed at the Council's September 21, 1979 meeting requesting the Honourable Margaret Birch to call for the completed report of the study group pertaining to Part 5 of the Ontario Building Code, and deal with same as expeditiously as possible. On January 14, 1980, Graham Adams, Director of the Building Code Branch, sent the Council a copy of the Branch's recommendations on Part 5. It was found that they were considerably weaker than the proposals made in the Council's original report.

On February 26, 1980 the Council wrote to Mrs. Birch expressing concern regarding the Building Code Branch of the Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations' modifications to Council's proposed amendments to Part 5 of the Ontario Building Code.

Mrs. Birch responded with a proposal that Bob Waterhouse, Rehabilitation Services Co-ordinator, Secretariat for Social Development, convene a meeting with representatives of the Ad Hoc Committee on Building Standards and of the Building Code Branch of the Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, with the aim of reaching a satisfactory understanding and agreement on both sides.

(Editors Note: The meeting will be held in May 1980).

## Public Forums

The Council held two Public Forums during 1979 (Fourth and Fifth). The Fourth Public Forum was held in Sudbury at the Council Chambers, Civic Square on May 24, 1979 and the Fifth at the Cambridge City Hall on October 25, 1979. Previous Forums were held in Kingston, Windsor and Metropolitan Toronto and have all proven valuable as a means of bringing to the attention of the community in general the concerns of the physically handicapped. These Forums provided an ideal

opportunity to inform the handicapped community of government programmes and services available, and to explain the role of Council. The Honourable Margaret Birch was in attendance at the Cambridge Forum, addressed the meeting, and responded to some of the briefs and concerns presented.

The 1979 Forums were attended by many, including a significant number of physically handicapped persons. Concerns were expressed on such issues as accommodation and support services, employment, public awareness, human rights, transportation and accessibility. The Council and its committees gained valuable input which will help formulate recommendations to the Ontario Government on policies and programmes for the handicapped.

## Rights — Bill 188

On November 22, 1979, the Honourable Robert Elgie M.D., Minister of Labour, announced in the Legislature that 'An Act to provide for Rights of Handicapped Persons' will be introduced immediately.

The Bill, which stated that no discrimination will be permitted on the grounds of disability in the provision of services, facilities, housing, accommodation and employment, received opposition from various agencies and organizations representing the handicapped, as it was felt that the handicapped were being singled out for special attention and somehow stigmatized in a separate piece of legislation.

Council discussed Bill 188 at its meeting held on December 7, 1979. The majority of Council members favoured the Bill but preferred that it be part of the Human Rights Code.

The Honourable Margaret Birch, at Council's meeting of December 7, 1979, explained the government's position on the Bill, and as well expressed her personal opinion as to the reaction of some groups within the handicapped community.

Representatives of the Ministry of Labour, in response to some of the criticisms of the Bill, said that the Ministry was prepared to make some changes before it received the second reading.

On December 11, 1979 the Honourable Robert Elgie announced in the Legislature the withdrawal of Bill 188, and said in part, "while I am prepared to continue to meet with organizations representing handicapped persons and to receive and seriously consider their representations, I am unable to say at

this time how the government may decide to deal with the problem at the next session of the Legislature.”

Bill 188 in part, proposed the establishment of an ‘Office for Handicapped Persons’ and that such an office be responsible to the Secretariat for Social Development. With the withdrawal of Bill 188 it appeared as though no further consideration would be given to the matter of the Office for Handicapped Persons. However, in a letter to Council on November 28, 1979, the Honourable Margaret Birch asked for Council’s views on the role and function of such an office, should it eventually be established.

Subsequently, a group of Council members met on January 11, 1980 to discuss the matter. The following recommendations were formulated which, after receiving the Council’s approval, were forwarded to Mrs. Birch:

1. That the Rehabilitation Services Co-ordinator’s Office be re-established by legislation as the Office for Handicapped Persons. The Office should continue with its present functions and have its role expanded to take in a broader spectrum of activities on behalf of the handicapped.
2. A particular function of the Office for Handicapped Persons would be, to obtain information with respect to programmes, services, facilities, goods, housing accommodation and employment for handicapped persons; to establish and maintain inventories thereof for the information and advice of handicapped persons. Such inventories would be stored in a computer and be available to any individual province-wide through calling an Inwats (code 800) telephone number. The Office might refer individuals to appropriate government or non-government agencies, e.g. Office of the Ombudsman, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Ontario Society for Crippled Children, etc.
3. The Office for Handicapped Persons should have the authority to seek and receive information within the government.
4. That if it becomes apparent that the Office for Handicapped Persons is being heavily relied upon to perform Ombudsman-like roles on behalf of the handicapped, that the Secretariat for Social Development advise the Provincial Ombudsman of this demand, and if necessary appoint within the Ombudsman’s Office additional personnel to deal with special needs of the handicapped.

The Committee further recommended that it would

be advantageous to have the Office for Handicapped Persons consult with the Advisory Council on policies affecting the handicapped.

The Committee also discussed the definition of ‘handicapped person’ as outlined in Section 20(c) of Bill 188 and recommended:

- (a) Hearing-impaired persons not be excluded from Section 20(c) (i) a physical disability or impairment, including epilepsy.
- (b) Section 20(c)(iii) should read ‘a mental disorder, or formerly had a mental disorder’.

On February 11, 1980 Dr. Elgie met with Council to discuss Rights for the Handicapped in possible future legislation. It was made clear to Council by Dr. Elgie just how difficult it would be to include persons with present mental disorders. Council emphasized that various agencies and organizations representing handicapped persons be consulted before any future legislation is drafted.

## **Discussion on health-related research grants**

### **Research project on the physically handicapped**

At Council’s meeting of September 21, 1979, a representative of the Ministry of Health, Policy Development and Research Branch, explained that the Ministry had undertaken a major statistical research project on the physically handicapped.

The design stage had been completed and it was then at the point of pilot testing. Questionnaires were to be sent to a sampling of households throughout the province to determine if there were residents with physical handicaps. It is expected that this testing will elicit a high response.

### **Research grants**

In response to Council’s concern with the allotment of the Ministry of Health research grants, a representative of the Ministry explained that a research committee comprised of people from outside the government reviews the scientific merit, the relevance of research to help health care services, the efficiency and estimated expenditures of the research proposals. The average grant size is \$35,000 to \$40,000 per annum and the awards are for a one-year period. Each year the projects are reassessed and some grants are renewed.



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## 1981-International Year of Disabled Persons

The United Nations has declared 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons. Efforts are being made by various groups, organizations and government agencies to co-ordinate programmes in many areas that would be significant for the year '1981'.

Council's Committee on Public Awareness has initiated the idea of a Caravan to move around the province during 1981, to provide information to the physically handicapped on programmes and services available, and to make the general public more aware of the concerns and abilities of the handicapped.

The Advisory Council recommended that the provincial government undertake responsibility for carrying out such a project.

## Handicapped people as decision-makers

Subsequent to discussions held and concerns expressed at meetings of the Advisory Council regarding handicapped people as decision-makers in agencies and organizations, the following motion was unanimously carried:

"That the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped issue a statement that more handicapped people should be considered for decision-making positions in agencies or organizations serving the physically handicapped."

Based on the above motion the Advisory Council issued a News Release which stated in part:

"That physically handicapped people often have a greater understanding of the issues they face and the needs they have than do the able-bodied. While acknowledging that capable and concerned able-bodied persons have contributed significantly over the years in the development of programmes for, and, delivery of services to the physically handicapped, the Council feels the time has come for the handicapped to have a larger say in the running of affairs that directly concern them. If the positions were reversed, with the physically handicapped running organizations for the able-bodied, Council members feel it would not take long before a major outcry would be heard and a major upheaval would occur."

## Radio reading service

The Advisory Council received a copy of a letter addressed to Premier William Davis, from the Radio Reading Service of Oakville, Ontario, requesting government funding to provide access for blind and print-handicapped individuals to daily newspapers, current magazines and books. At its meeting of August 1979, Council discussed this matter. It was suggested that, because of the constraints on budgets of the various ministries, perhaps the cost of \$100,000 (the annual operating cost for such a service) could be reduced by the use of volunteers.

It was felt that, although the service might be valuable, the operating cost and the service should be monitored and, perhaps, made accountable to the Ontario Educational Communications Authority (O.E.C.A.). Based on the above discussions, the following motion was unanimously carried:

"The service seems to be a valuable one, but the emphasis should be placed on providing current daily and weekly newspapers. The service should attempt to make use of volunteer readers to the fullest extent possible. In order that the service may be available in the province as a whole, perhaps it should come under the supervision of O.E.C.A. and be funded by Wintario."

In response to Council's position concerning the Radio Reading Service, the Honourable Margaret Birch stated that a special committee comprised of members from the Ministries of Community and Social Services, Culture and Recreation and the Secretariat for Social Development have been asked to review the operation.

At the end of the period this report covers, no firm response had been received.

## Income maintenance

Council's report and recommendations on income maintenance for the physically handicapped were formally presented in March 1977 and documented in the Council's Second Annual Report.

The Council's concern with the 'disincentive' unwittingly introduced by the present regulations of the Family Benefits Act (F.B.A.) was the major topic of discussion when representatives met with the Honourable Margaret Birch, the Honourable Darcy McKeough and the Honourable Keith Norton in March 1978.



It was explained that, due to restrictions under the cost sharing arrangement with the federal government, major amendments, as proposed by the Council, would not be a simple undertaking. However, the Council's position was supported by the Ministers and an agreement was reached to approach the federal government for changes to the Canada Assistance Plan (C.A.P.).

The handicapped 'community' was pleased with Mr. Norton's announcement of September 19, 1979, which introduced work incentives for recipients of F.B.A.

In his announcement, Mr. Norton stated in part:

"We are aware that there are many recipients who want to be independent and to contribute more to community life, but who often experience difficulties in getting back on their feet, especially if they are disabled or have family responsibilities. These people, when they find full time employment, often face the triple barriers of low wages, few fringe benefits and jobs which are less secure than welfare. As a result, they can become discouraged and remain on assistance."

Mr. Norton added:

"We want to ensure that a recipient does benefit because of his or her desire to obtain permanent employment.

I believe this program is an important, positive direction for social policy which merits the understanding and support of the public. It is a major break from traditional income security programmes which create dependency. This initiative is aimed at removing disincentives to work and, thus, it encourages self-sufficiency.

For more than a year, I have been attempting to get agreement from the federal department of National Health and Welfare to share the costs of this programme.

All other provinces have accepted the principles of work incentives and supported our request to Ottawa. Our talks with federal authorities have not yet been successful in generating a federal commitment.

However, we are going ahead with this programme because we continue to believe that we are going in the correct direction in this important area.

Consequently, we hope that the federal government will be able to find a way to help support these initiatives in the future."

This announcement reflects the position taken by the Advisory Council in formulating its

recommendations. Support was expressed to the Minister in a letter from the Council's Chairman.

The Council will continue to monitor this programme, while urging implementation of its other recommendations on income maintenance.

## **Discussion on the Blind Person's Rights Act**

At Council's meeting of June 22, 1979, representatives of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (C.N.I.B.) and the Blind Organization of Ontario with Self Help Tactics (B.O.O.S.T.) expressed their concerns with three specific areas of the Blind Persons Rights Act. These concerns were:

- (1) Which dogs should be covered by the Act. Blind persons with their dog guides visiting Canada are not necessarily covered by the Act.
- (2) Employers sometimes do not allow dog guides. A blind person could be refused employment because of a dog guide.
- (3) Discrimination regarding cane users and dog guides.

There was discussion on the various problems a dog guide user sometimes encounters. C.N.I.B. held campaigns to educate the public on dog guides. It was felt that perhaps a dog guide be defined as an assistive device, and that the Ontario Human Rights Code be amended so that there would be no discrimination against dog guide and user.

While the Advisory Council supports the concerns of C.N.I.B. and B.O.O.S.T., it was suggested that they should write directly to the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

## **Bell Canada's introduction of Balanced Armature Receiver (B.A.R.)**

At Council's meeting of February 15, 1980, a representative of Bell Canada stated that, in January 1977 Bell began the introduction of a new type of telephone receiver called B.A.R., which differs in one respect from the previous receiver — it does not give off a magnetic field strong enough to be picked up by inductive coils, which have been incorporated into most hearing aids to provide easy access to the telephone.

A Steering Committee, comprising over twenty organizations of the deaf and hard of hearing, had asked Bell to hold off the introduction of the new

equipment until a satisfactory alternative could be found. The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (C.R.T.C.) was asked to get involved with this issue.

Two main components of an agreement documented were: (a) to research a permanent solution to the problem, and (b) a series of interim measures to minimize the impact of the new receiver.

According to the representative of Bell, it is their intention to recognize changes in technology and at the same time continue to maintain access to telephones without adversely affecting the hearing impaired.

Bell would like to continue their research in attempting to solve the problems of the hearing impaired, and if a solution cannot be found by the end of 1980, they will revert to the magnetic field.

Council members were very pleased with Bell's efforts to find a solution to the problems of the hearing impaired and deaf. The following motion was unanimously endorsed by Council:

"That the Advisory Council applaud and encourage the quality of co-operation between the Canadian Hearing Society and Bell Canada in their efforts to find solutions, and

That the Advisory Council encourage and promote such co-operative projects between other industries and handicapped groups, to improve the life style of the handicapped."

## **Ad Hoc Committee on Income Tax Laws as they Pertain to the Physically Handicapped**

Joseph Arvay, Chairman  
Toby Brooks  
Bill Hatt  
John Yorke

*Representative to Committee:*  
Jim Nicol

The Advisory Council had, on numerous occasions, been made aware of 'discrepancies' and 'inconsistencies' within the Federal Income Tax Act. An ad hoc committee under the Chairmanship of Joseph Arvay was formed in August 1979 to review present income tax laws and the effect they might have on the physically handicapped.

On March 1, 1980 the Committee presented a report to Council which included recommendations as summarized below:

### **1 Medical expenses**

That any taxpayer be entitled to claim a standard deduction of \$100.00 or the actual costs of all medical expenses (as permitted by the Act and Regulations) at his or her option without reference to the present requirement that such expenses exceed 3% of the taxpayer's net income.

### **2 Disability-related expenses**

That a taxpayer be able to deduct those expenses which are directly related to the taxpayer's disability and which were incurred necessarily to: enable the disabled taxpayer to obtain and retain employment; obtain education; have suitable housing, and in general to exercise one's basic political and legal rights.

### **3 Renovations to buildings**

- (a) That an employer who hires a handicapped individual be allowed to deduct the cost of renovation in order to make the building accessible to the handicapped.
- (b) That the owner of any building, facility or transportation vehicle, ordinarily used by the public, be entitled to deduct the cost of any renovations made for the purpose of making such building, facility or vehicle accessible to the handicapped.

### **4 Basic disability deduction: s.110(1) (e)**

- (a) That the basic disability deduction in the present Income Tax Act be transformed either into a refundable tax credit or become a tax credit or tax deduction at the option of the taxpayer.
- (b) That whatever form the general tax relief takes, it be extended to anyone with a serious, long term physical disability as defined herein.\*

\*(Generally it is recommended that a disabled or handicapped person be defined as one who has a long term sensory or motor deficit of such severity that it interferes with the person's ability to live independently, to obtain and hold gainful employment or who is otherwise limited in activities pertaining to normal living as verified by objective medical findings and accepted by a medical advisory board.)



- (c) That a taxpayer be given the option of claiming either the general disability credit/deduction or the actual costs incurred in disability-related expenses (as proposed in recommendation 2) whichever is the greater.

The Committee's report and recommendations were forwarded to the Honourable Margaret Birch requesting that she present it to her colleagues, the Honourable Thomas Wells, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and the Honourable Frank Miller, Treasurer of Ontario, for their consideration and comment.

*(Editor's Note: The detailed report of the committee is on file at the Council's office.)*

## Ad Hoc Committee on Recreation

William Hatt, Chairperson  
Peter Kingsmill

The Committee was established in June 1979 to look into the area of recreation. They met for the first time on October 24, 1979, together with representatives of the Ontario Recreation Society, Ministry of Culture and Recreation, Ontario March of Dimes, Ontario Crippled Children's Centre, University of Waterloo, Department of Recreation and Ontario Library Association.

Discussions included the means of information services available at public libraries; the recreation programme of the University of Waterloo; provision of recreation and physical educational classes in a regular school setting; etc. It was suggested that this Council be added to the information list of public libraries and that Bill Hatt be the contact person for recreation; and that any future publication of Council should include recreation as a recognized need.

The Ontario Recreation Society, Ministry of Culture and Recreation, Ontario March of Dimes and Ontario Crippled Children's Centre have Councils and Committees dealing with recreational programmes for the handicapped. Council's Committee on Recreation intends to liaise with these recreational Councils and Committees, and provide input whenever possible.

### *Future action by Committee*

- Further monitor recreational programmes and provide input where possible
- Ensure the availability of information on recreation for the handicapped

- Encourage disabled persons to direct some of their leisure time to recreation
- Investigate the availability of passive recreation for the handicapped (i.e. crafts, painting, writing, reading, etc.)

## Council's discussion on Variety Village Sports Training and Fitness Centre

In order to gain a better understanding of the sports complex, at its meeting of July 26, 1979, Council met with representatives from Variety Village and organizations opposed to the project. Presentations were received from the Blind Organization of Ontario with Self-Help Tactics (B.O.O.S.T.); United Handicapped Groups of Ontario (U.H.G.O.); and the Ontario Federation for the Physically Handicapped (O.F.P.H.). Some of the concerns expressed by these organizations were:

- Perhaps a kind of limited segregation may occur through 'reverse integration', and the proposed complex will hamper disabled people's move towards integration
- The possible Wintario grant and ongoing funding will perhaps curtail local city councils from providing funds for local handicapped sports programmes and accessible facilities
- Availability of transportation for handicapped people from all over Metro Toronto for special programmes at the complex
- The amount and source of ongoing funding required to maintain such a complex

In response to some of the concerns expressed, representatives of Variety Village gave an overview of the intended purpose of the new centre with an estimated initial cost of \$4 million:

- Application for one-third of that amount was submitted to the Ministry of Culture and Recreation for a Wintario grant, and Variety Village will undertake to raise the other two-thirds
- The operating cost of the new centre is estimated at \$400,000 per annum
- Variety Village is requesting operational funding in some areas from the government

The Recreation Committee Chairman thought that such a complex offering research into the best possible methods of training disabled athletes was good. Because such a complex allows both able and disabled individuals to partake in recreational activities, it was felt that this procedure will enhance public awareness.



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A representative of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation explained to Council that the Variety Village Sports Training and Fitness Centre's application for Wintario funding was accepted, as it met all criteria established by the Ministry for funding.

● Importance et source du financement de ce complexe.

En réponse à certaines des questions soulevées, les représentants de Variety Village ont expliqué les objectifs du nouveau centre, dont le coût initial serait d'environ \$4 000 000.

- Une demande de subvention Wintario pour le tiers de ce montant a été présentée au ministère des Affaires culturelles et des Loisirs. Le Variety Village s'occupera de recueillir les deux autres tiers.
- Les frais annuels d'exploitation du nouveau centre seraient de quelque \$400 000.
- Le Variety Village a demandé au gouvernement une subvention d'exploitation pour certains éléments du projet.

Selon le président du comité sur les loisirs, ce complexe permettrait d'améliorer les méthodes d'entraînement des athlètes handicapés. Il contribuerait en outre à la sensibilisation du public en permettant aux personnes non handicapées de participer à des activités sportives en compagnie de personnes handicapées.

Un représentant du ministère des Affaires culturelles et des Loisirs a fait savoir au Conseil que la demande d'une subvention Wintario pour le centre sportif de Variety Village, qui répondait à toutes les normes, avait été acceptée.

(a) Que la déduction de base pour invalidité prévue actuellement par la loi de l'impôt sur le revenu soit remplacée par un crédit d'impôt remboursable ou, au gré du contribuable, par un crédit d'impôt ou une déduction d'impôt.

(b) Que les allègements fiscaux, quelle qu'en soit la forme, puissent s'appliquer à toute personne souffrant d'une invalidité physique grave à long terme, telle que définie dans les présentes\*.

\* (De façon générale, le comité recommande qu'une personne invalide ou handicapée soit définie comme étant une personne souffrant d'une déficience sensoriel-motrice à long terme dont la gravité l'empêche de vivre de façon autonome, d'avoir et de garder un emploi rémunérateur, ou limitée de quelque façon dans ses activités normales comme l'attestent des examens médicaux objectifs reconnus par une commission médicale consultative.)

(c) Qu'un contribuable puisse profiter de la déduction fiscale générale pour invalidité, ou déduire les frais effectifs engagés par suite de son invalidité (comme le propose la recommandation n° 2), si ces derniers sont supérieurs.

Le rapport et les recommandations du comité ont été communiqués à l'honorable Margaret Birch, pour qu'elle les transmette à ses collègues, les honorables Thomas Wells, ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales, et Frank Miller, Trésorier de l'Ontario, qui lui feront part de leurs observations.

(Un peut consulter au bureau du Conseil le rapport détaillé du comité.)

## Comité temporaire sur les loisirs

William Hatt, président  
Peter Kingmill

Le comité sur les loisirs a été créé en juin 1979. Il a tenu sa première réunion le 24 octobre 1979, avec des représentants de la Société des loisirs de l'Ontario du ministère des Affaires culturelles et des Loisirs, de la Marche des dix sous de l'Ontario, du Centre de soins aux enfants infirmes de l'Ontario, du Département des loisirs de l'Université de Waterloo et de l'Association des bibliothèques de l'Ontario.

**Observations du Conseil sur le projet du centre sportif de Variety Village**

Pour mieux comprendre ce projet de complexe sportif, le Conseil a invité, à sa réunion du 26 juillet 1979, des représentants de Variety Village et d'organismes opposés au projet: la Blind Organization of Ontario with Self-Help Tactics (B.O.O.S.T.), les United Handicapped Groups of Ontario (U.H.G.O.) et l'Ontario Federation for the Physically Handicapped (O.F.P.H.). Voici quelques-uns des points de vue exprimés par ces organismes:

- La création d'un complexe sportif à l'intention des handicapés pourrait entraîner une certaine ségrégation qui risque d'empêcher leur intégration véritable.
- Le financement éventuel par la loterie Wintario pourrait réduire l'enthousiasme des conseils municipaux à financer les programmes et installations de loisirs à l'intention des handicapés.
- Accessibilité des moyens de transport pour les handicapés de toute la Communauté urbaine de Toronto intéressés à suivre les programmes spéciaux du complexe sportif.

**Projets du comité**

- Suivre de plus près les programmes récréatifs et leur apporter toute la collaboration possible.
- Renseigner les handicapés sur les loisirs qui leur sont accessibles.
- Encourager les handicapés à consacrer une partie de leurs temps libres aux loisirs.
- Explorer les possibilités d'activités culturelles accessibles aux handicapés (artisanat, peinture, écriture, lecture, etc.)

Le comité a proposé, entre autres, qu'une liste soit affichée dans les bibliothèques publiques pour faire connaître aux handicapés le programme de loisirs de l'Université de Waterloo les mesures visant à organiser des loisirs ou des cours d'éducation physique dans les écoles, etc. On a suggéré que le nom du Conseil figure sur cette liste, avec le nom de William Hatt comme personne ressource, et que les loisirs soient désormais considérés, dans toutes les publications du Conseil, comme un besoin essentiel des handicapés.

La Société des loisirs de l'Ontario, le ministère des Affaires culturelles et des Loisirs, la Marche des dix sous de l'Ontario et le Centre de soins pour les enfants infirmes ont déjà des comités qui offrent des programmes de loisirs aux handicapés. Le comité a l'intention d'entrer en contact avec ces organismes et de collaborer avec eux.



directement à la Commission des droits de la personne de l'Ontario.

## Lancement par Bell Canada d'un récepteur à palette équilibrée

A sa réunion du 15 février 1980, le Conseil a été informé par un représentant de Bell Canada qu'en janvier 1977, Bell avait lancé un nouveau type de récepteur téléphonique appelé "récepteur à palette équilibrée", qui diffère du précédent en ce que le champ magnétique produit n'est pas assez fort pour être capté par les bobines d'induction, qui ont été intégrées à la plupart des appareils de prothèse auditive pour faciliter l'accès au service téléphonique.

Un comité directeur comprenant plus de vingt organismes de sourds et de malentendants avait demandé à Bell Canada de ne pas lancer son nouveau récepteur avant de trouver une solution satisfaisante à ce problème. Le Conseil de la radiodiffusion et des télécommunications canadiennes avait également été invité à se prononcer sur cette question.

Selon le représentant de Bell Canada, Bell entend suivre l'évolution technologique tout en maintenant l'accès au service téléphonique sans gêner les malentendants. Bell poursuivra donc ses recherches sur les moyens de résoudre les problèmes des malentendants, et si elle ne peut trouver de solution d'ici la fin de 1980, elle reviendra au champ magnétique.

Les membres du Conseil se sont dits satisfaits des efforts de Bell Canada pour trouver une solution aux problèmes des sourds et des malentendants et ont adopté à l'unanimité la proposition suivante: "Que le Conseil souligne et encourage la qualité de la collaboration qui existe entre la Canadian Hearing Society et Bell Canada dans leurs efforts pour trouver des solutions; et que le Conseil encourage les projets conjoints de même nature entre les groupes handicapés et d'autres industries pour améliorer la qualité de la vie des personnes handicapées."

## Comité temporaire sur les lois de l'impôt sur le revenu et les handicapés physiques

Joseph Aray, président  
Toby Brooks  
Bill Hatt  
John Yorke

Jim Nicol  
Délégué auprès du comité:

Le 1<sup>er</sup> mars 1980, le comité a présenté son rapport au Conseil. Voici un résumé de ses recommandations.

### 1 Frais médicaux

Que tout contribuable ait droit à une déduction forfaitaire de \$100 ou, à son gré, puisse déduire les dépenses effectivement engagées pour frais médicaux (autorisés par la loi et les règlements) sans égard aux exigences actuelles qui prévoient que ces dépenses doivent excéder 3% du revenu net.

### 2 Dépenses relatives à l'invalidité

Qu'un contribuable puisse déduire les dépenses ayant trait directement à une invalidité et qu'il a dû engager pour obtenir ou conserver son emploi, suivre des cours, se procurer un logement approprié et, de façon générale, exercer ses droits politiques et juridiques fondamentaux.

### 3 Renovation de bâtiments

(a) Qu'un employeur qui embauche une personne handicapée puisse déduire les frais de rénovation engagés pour lui faciliter l'accès à ses locaux.  
(b) Que le propriétaire d'un immeuble, d'une installation ou d'un véhicule de transport servant ordinairement au public puisse déduire les frais de rénovation engagés pour rendre son immeuble, son installation ou son véhicule accessibles aux handicapés.

croire que dans ce domaine important, il constitue l'orientation appropriée.

"Nous espérons donc que le gouvernement fédéral trouvera une façon d'appuyer à l'avenir ces initiatives."

Cette déclaration du ministre reflète la position prise par le Conseil lorsqu'il a formulé ses recommandations. Dans une lettre au ministre, le président du Conseil l'a assuré de son appui.

Le Conseil continuera de suivre l'évolution de ce programme, tout en pressant le gouvernement de mettre en oeuvre ses autres recommandations en matière de maintien du revenu.

## Discussion sur la Loi sur les droits des aveugles

A la réunion du conseil du 22 juin 1979, des représentants de l'Institut national canadien pour les aveugles (I.N.C.A.) et de la Blind Organization of Ontario with Self Help Tactics (B.O.O.S.T.) ont fait part de leurs préoccupations à l'égard de trois points particuliers de la Loi sur les droits des aveugles:

- (1) Préciser quels sont les chiens visés par la loi. La loi ne protège pas nécessairement les aveugles qui visitent le Canada avec leurs chiens-guides.
- (2) Certains employeurs interdisent les chiens-guides. Un aveugle peut ainsi se voir refuser l'accès à un emploi parce qu'il a besoin d'un chien-guide.
- (3) Discrimination concernant ceux qui utilisent une canne blanche et un chien-guide.

Des échanges ont permis de mieux comprendre les divers problèmes auxquels doit faire face un aveugle accompagné de son chien-guide. Par ses campagnes, l'I.N.C.A. essaie de sensibiliser le public à cette question. Peut-être serait-il bon d'inclure les chiens-guides dans la définition des appareils orthopédiques et autres, et de modifier le Code des droits de l'homme de l'Ontario de façon à interdire toute discrimination à l'égard des aveugles accompagnés d'un chien-guide. Par ses campagnes, l'I.N.C.A. essaie de sensibiliser le public à cette question. Peut-être serait-il bon d'inclure les chiens-guides dans la définition des appareils orthopédiques et autres, et de modifier le Code des droits de l'homme de l'Ontario de façon à interdire toute discrimination à l'égard des aveugles accompagnés d'un chien-guide.

Le Conseil partage les préoccupations de l'I.N.C.A. et de la B.O.O.S.T. et leur a suggéré d'écrire

principal sujet abordé lors d'une rencontre en mars 1978 entre des représentants du Conseil et les honorables Margaret Birch, Darcy McKeough et Keith Norton.

Les ministres ont expliqué qu'en raison des restrictions découlant de l'entente fédérale-provinciale sur les programmes à frais partagés, ce ne serait pas chose facile d'adopter les principales modifications proposées par le Conseil. Ils ont cependant appuyé la position du Conseil et convenu de faire les démarches nécessaires auprès du gouvernement fédéral pour que des modifications soient apportées au Régime d'assistance publique du Canada.

Les milieux handicapés ont été très satisfaits de la mesure annoncée par l'honorable Norton, le 19 septembre 1979, concernant l'incitation au travail pour les bénéficiaires des prestations familiales. M. Norton avait alors déclaré:

"Nous savons qu'un grand nombre de prestataires désirent être autonomes et contribuer davantage à la collectivité, mais qu'ils éprouvent souvent beaucoup de difficulté à le faire, surtout s'ils sont handicapés ou ont des responsabilités familiales. Souvent, lorsqu'ils trouvent un emploi à temps plein, ils doivent faire face à trois obstacles: des salaires bas, peu d'avantages sociaux et des emplois qui sont moins assurés que leurs prestations sociales. Ils peuvent alors se décourager et préférer vivre de ces prestations plutôt que de travailler."

Le ministre ajoutait:

"Nous voulons faire en sorte qu'un prestataire ne soit pas pénalisé parce qu'il désire un emploi permanent."

"Je crois que ce programme représente une orientation positive en matière de politique sociale, et qu'il mérite la compréhension et l'appui du public. Il s'écartere de façon importante des programmes traditionnels de maintien du revenu qui engendrent la dépendance. Cette mesure vise à éliminer le manque d'incitation au travail et à encourager l'autosuffisance.

"J'essaie, depuis bientôt plus d'un an, d'amener le ministère fédéral de la Santé et du Bien-être social à partager les coûts de ce programme.

"Toutes les autres provinces ont accepté le principe de l'incitation au travail et appuyé notre demande, mais nos discussions avec l'administration fédérale n'ont pas encore abouti à une entente.

"Nous avons cependant décidé d'aller de l'avant avec ce programme, car nous continuons de



## 1981 — l'Année internationale des personnes handicapées

Les Nations Unies ont proclamé l'année 1981 l'Année internationale des personnes handicapées. Des efforts sont faits par divers groupes, associations et organismes publics pour coordonner la mise sur pied de programmes, dans un grand nombre de domaines, qui présenteraient un intérêt particulier pour l'année 1981.

Le comité de sensibilisation du public a lancé l'idée d'une caravane qui sillonnerait toute la province en 1981 et fournirait des renseignements aux personnes handicapées sur les programmes et services accessibles tout en informant le public des problèmes, préoccupations et possibilités des handicapés.

Le Conseil a recommandé que le gouvernement de l'Ontario assume la responsabilité de la mise en oeuvre de ce projet.

## Les personnes handicapées et la prise de décision

Faisant suite aux préoccupations exprimées lors de ses réunions relativement aux décisions qui devraient revenir aux personnes handicapées dans les organismes et associations, le Conseil a adopté à l'unanimité la proposition suivante:

"Que le Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques publie une déclaration officielle en vue d'inciter les organismes au service des handicapés physiques à confier à un plus grand nombre de personnes handicapées des postes de prise de décision."

Par la suite, le Conseil a publié un communiqué officiel, dont voici quelques extraits:

"Les handicapés physiques comprennent souvent mieux que les personnes non handicapées leurs propres problèmes et leurs propres besoins. Mais tout en reconnaissant la contribution précieuse qu'ont apportée au cours des années les personnes non handicapées à l'élaboration des programmes et des services à l'intention des handicapés, le Conseil est d'avis qu'il est temps de laisser les handicapés jouer un rôle plus important dans la direction des affaires qui les concernent directement. Si les rôles étaient inversés, et si, par exemple, c'était des personnes physiquement handicapées qui dirigeaient les organismes des personnes non handicapées, on imagine facilement la clameur

## Maintien du revenu

Après avoir pris connaissance de cette proposition du Conseil sur le service de lecture radiophonique, l'honorable Margaret Birch a fait savoir qu'un comité spécial formé de membres du ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires, du ministère des Affaires culturelles et des Loisirs et du Secrétaire aux Affaires sociales a été chargé d'examiner le fonctionnement du service. A la fin de l'exercice, le Conseil n'avait pas encore reçu de rapport à cet égard.

Le Conseil a reçu copie d'une lettre adressée au Premier ministre Davis par le Radio Reading Service d'Oakville (Ontario), sollicitant une subvention pour rendre accessible aux aveugles et autres handicapés de même type la lecture des quotidiens, magazines et ouvrages. Le Conseil a discuté de cette question à sa réunion du mois d'août 1979 et recommandé qu'en raison des restrictions budgétaires des divers ministères, les frais d'exploitation annuels de \$100 000 de ce service pourraient peut-être être réduits par le recours à des bénévoles. Selon le Conseil, ce service peut être très utile, mais ses frais d'exploitation et ses programmes devraient être sous la surveillance et la responsabilité de l'Office de la télécommunication éducative de l'Ontario (O.T.E.O.). Le Conseil a donc adopté à l'unanimité la proposition suivante:

"Ce service semble présenter une très grande utilité, mais il devrait privilégier les quotidiens et les hebdomadaires, et le recours le plus généralisé possible à des lecteurs bénévoles. Pour que ce service puisse être offert dans toute la province, peut-être devrait-il relever de l'O.T.E.O. et être financé par la loterie Wintario."

Le rapport et les recommandations du Conseil sur le maintien du revenu des personnes physiquement handicapées ont été officiellement présentés en mars 1977 et expliqués dans le Deuxième rapport annuel du Conseil. Le Conseil s'était inquiété du manque de stimulation provoqué sans cesse par les règlements actuels de la Loi sur les prestations familiales. Ce fut là le



divers organismes représentant les personnes handicapées pour connaître leurs points de vue et les prendre en considération. Mais pour l'instant, je ne peux dire comment le gouvernement entend traiter de cette question à la prochaine session de l'Assemblée législative."

Le projet de loi n° 188 proposait, entre autres, la création d'un Office des personnes handicapées, qui relèverait du Secrétariat aux Affaires sociales. Avec le retrait du projet de loi, il pouvait sembler que la création de cet Office serait abandonnée. Mais dans une lettre en date du 28 novembre 1979, l'honorable Margaret Birch invitait le Conseil à lui dire quels devraient être le rôle et les fonctions de cet office, s'il devait un jour être mis sur pied. Le 11 janvier 1980, un groupe de membres du Conseil a discuté de cette question, et le Conseil a soumis à Madame Birch les recommandations suivantes:

1. Que le bureau du coordonnateur des Services de réadaptation devienne officiellement l'Office des personnes handicapées. Cet Office conserverait les fonctions actuelles du bureau, mais il assumerait un rôle élargi touchant un éventail plus large d'activités au nom des handicapés. 2. Que l'Office ait pour fonction particulière de recueillir, répertorier et mettre à jour tous les renseignements relatifs aux programmes, services, installations, biens, produits, logements et emplois pour les personnes handicapées. Ces données pourraient être stockées dans un ordinateur et accessibles dans toute la province par le biais d'un numéro de téléphone (code 800) du système Inwats. L'Office pourrait indiquer aux personnes handicapées à quels organismes publics ou privés s'adresser, par exemple le Bureau de l'Ombudsman, les services de réadaptation professionnelle, la Société des enfants infirmes de l'Ontario, etc. 3. Que l'Office ait le pouvoir de recueillir les renseignements nécessaires auprès de l'administration publique.

4. Si l'expérience révèle que l'Office joue un rôle important d'ombudsman pour les personnes handicapées, que le Secrétariat aux Affaires sociales en informe le Bureau de l'Ombudsman de la province et, au besoin, désigne des personnes au sein du Bureau de l'Ombudsman chargées de répondre aux besoins spéciaux des handicapés. Le Conseil a également souligné qu'il serait très utile que l'Office des personnes handicapées le consulte sur toutes les politiques touchant les handicapés. Il a également étudié la définition que donne le

projet de loi (Article 20, alinéa c) des personnes handicapées et fait la recommandation suivante: (a) Que les malentendants ne soient pas exclus de l'Article 20 (c) (i) sur les handicaps physiques, y compris l'épilepsie. (b) Que l'Article 20 (c) (iii) comprenne aussi ceux qui ont déjà souffert de désordre mental.

Le 11 février 1980, l'honorable Elgie a rencontré les membres du Conseil pour discuter des droits des handicapés qui devraient être inscrits dans la loi. Il a clairement indiqué qu'il serait difficile d'inclure les personnes souffrant actuellement de désordres mentaux. Le Conseil lui a souligné l'importance de consulter les divers organismes représentant les personnes handicapées avant de rédiger tout autre projet de loi.

## Subventions de recherche en matière de santé

### Projet de recherche sur les handicapés physiques

Lors de la réunion du Conseil du 21 septembre 1979, un représentant de la Direction de la recherche et de la planification stratégique, du ministère de la Santé, a expliqué que le ministère avait entrepris un important projet de recherche statistique sur les handicapés physiques. Le projet, qui a déjà franchi l'étape de l'élaboration, en est au stade de l'expérimentation pilote. Des questionnaires ont été envoyés à un échantillonage de ménages dans toute la province pour déterminer le nombre de personnes souffrant de handicaps physiques. Le ministère espère que le taux de réponses sera très élevé.

### Subventions de recherche

En réponse à la préoccupation du Conseil concernant la répartition des subventions de recherche du ministère de la Santé, un représentant du ministère a expliqué qu'un comité composé de citoyens indépendants de l'administration publique examine la valeur scientifique des projets de recherche, leur pertinence par rapport aux services de soins de santé, leur efficacité et les budgets prévus. En moyenne, les subventions sont de \$35 000 à \$40 000 par an, et elles sont accordées pour une période d'un an. Chaque année, les projets sont réévalués, et certaines subventions sont renouvelées.

Commerce, a chargé un groupe de travail formé de représentants des organismes les plus susceptibles d'être touchés par les dispositions de la Partie 5 du Code du bâtiment de l'Ontario, d'étudier les modifications proposées à cette partie du Code par le Conseil et de lui en faire rapport. Clare Milliar, président du comité des normes de construction, et Gerald Clarke, chef administratif, ont fait partie de ce groupe d'étude.

A la réunion du 22 juin 1979, Clare Milliar informa le Conseil que le groupe avait terminé son travail et le soumettrait à l'approbation des organismes représentés et des autres organismes intéressés. Le comité de réglementation du ministère recevrait ensuite le rapport final, qui devrait parvenir au ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce à l'automne 1979.

Les choses en étant demeurées là, le Conseil adopta une proposition, à sa réunion du 21 septembre 1979, invitant Madame Birch à demander le rapport final du groupe d'étude et à en prendre connaissance le plus rapidement possible. Le 14 janvier 1980, Graham Adams, directeur de la Direction du Code du bâtiment, envoyait au Conseil les recommandations de la Direction sur la Partie 5 du Code. Le Conseil constata que ces recommandations étaient beaucoup moins vigoureuses que celles qu'il avait lui-même mises de l'avant dans son rapport.

Le 26 février 1980, le Conseil écrit à Madame Birch pour lui faire part de ses préoccupations concernant les modifications apportées par la Direction du Code du bâtiment à ses propositions originales. Madame Birch proposa alors que Bob Waterhouse, coordonnateur des Services de réadaptation, Secrétariat aux Affaires sociales, organise une rencontre avec des représentants du comité des normes de construction et de la Direction du Code du bâtiment du ministère de la Consommation et du Commerce, en vue d'arriver à une entente satisfaisante.

(Cette réunion doit avoir lieu en mai 1980)

## Forums

Au cours de l'exercice, le Conseil a organisé deux forums (les quatrième et cinquième), l'un à Sudbury le 24 mai 1979, à la salle du Conseil municipal, et l'autre à Cambridge le 25 octobre 1979 à l'Hôtel de ville. Les trois forums précédents avaient été organisés à Kingston, Windsor et dans la Communauté urbaine de Toronto. Ces colloques se

sont révélés très précieux pour sensibiliser le public aux problèmes des handicapés physiques, en plus de fournir également une occasion exceptionnelle de faire connaître au public et aux handicapés de faire connaître au public et aux handicapés physiques les services et programmes existants et d'expliquer le rôle du Conseil. L'honorable Margaret Birch a assisté au forum de Cambridge, où elle a adressé la parole aux participants et répondu à quelques-uns des mémoires présentés.

Les deux forums tenus en 1979 ont attiré de nombreux participants, dont un grand nombre d'handicapés. Ils ont permis de discuter des services de logement et d'appui, des problèmes relatifs à l'emploi, de la sensibilisation du public, des droits de la personne, du transport, de l'accessibilité des services, etc. Le Conseil en a retiré des données précieuses qui l'aideront à élaborer des recommandations au gouvernement de l'Ontario sur les politiques et les programmes à l'intention des handicapés physiques.

## Droits de la personne — Projet de loi n° 188

Le 22 novembre 1979, l'honorable Robert Elgie, M.D., ministre du Travail, annonçait le dépôt à l'Assemblée législative d'un projet de loi sur les droits des handicapés physiques.

De nombreux organismes représentant les handicapés se sont opposés à ce projet de loi, qui interdit toute discrimination à l'égard des handicapés en matière de services, installations, logement et emploi. Ils ont expliqué que les handicapés font ainsi l'objet d'un traitement particulier et se trouvent stigmatisés d'une certaine façon par une loi distincte. A sa réunion du 7 décembre 1979, le Conseil a étudié le projet de loi. Tout en s'y déclarant favorables, les membres ont majoritairement indiqué qu'ils préféreraient que ces droits fassent partie du Code des droits de l'homme de l'Ontario.

Lors de cette réunion, l'honorable Margaret Birch expliqua la position du gouvernement sur cette question et présenta son point de vue personnel sur la réaction de certains groupes des milieux handicapés.

Devant les critiques faites au projet de loi, le ministère du Travail fit savoir qu'il était prêt à apporter certains changements avant l'étape de la deuxième lecture.

Le 11 décembre 1979, l'honorable Robert Elgie annonçait à l'Assemblée législative qu'il retirait son projet de loi: "J'entends continuer de rencontrer les



Chevauchement des services et des collectes de fonds

Les membres du Conseil ont constaté un certain chevauchement des services et des collectes de fonds entre les divers organismes qui travaillent avec les handicapés physiques. A leur réunion du 27 avril 1979, ils ont donc unanimement approuvé une lettre qui fut envoyée à l'honorable Margaret Birch. Dans cette lettre, le président écrivait ce qui suit: "Le Conseil s'inquiète de la concurrence qui peut exister entre les nombreux organismes publics et privés touchant les services aux handicapés, les collectes de fonds et les subventions publiques, et qui risque d'accroître les frais d'administration, de réduire la qualité des services offerts et de jeter la confusion dans l'esprit des citoyens sur l'utilisation de leurs impôts et des fonds recueillis."

Tous s'entendant sur la nécessité d'une rencontre entre les principaux organismes pour aborder cette question, le président proposa que cette réunion soit convoquée par le Secréariat aux Affaires sociales, organe tout indiqué tant du point de vue du gouvernement que des organismes privés. Madame Birch accueillit favorablement cette proposition et l'offre de collaboration du Conseil et mit sur pied un comité, sous la présidence de Jack Longman, chargé d'organiser à l'automne un forum pour les handicapés physiques. Lors de la réunion du Conseil du 21 septembre 1979, le président fit savoir que des problèmes d'organisation avaient forcé le comité de planification à recommander que ce forum soit remis au printemps 1980.

L'enfance en difficulté

Conseil consultatif sur l'éducation de l'enfance en difficulté

Heather Rankin a continué de représenter le Conseil en siégeant au Conseil consultatif sur l'éducation de l'enfance en difficulté, du ministère de l'Education. Les membres de ce conseil ont longuement discuté du rôle et de l'utilité du conseil lors d'une réunion tenue les 13 et 14 février 1979, et se sont interrogés sur son efficacité et sur l'influence qu'il peut avoir en raison de ses réunions peu fréquentes.

Services à l'enfance en difficulté du système scolaire de Détroit (Michigan)

Joyce Bear, psychologue du Conseil scolaire de Détroit, a participé à la réunion du Conseil du 23

Congrès "Nous trouverons un moyen"

août 1979. Elle a énuméré les services à l'enfance en difficulté offerts aux handicapés physiques à Détroit et présenté quelques-uns des programmes mis sur pied à l'intention des enfants physiquement handicapés dans les écoles pour enfants en difficulté. Au Michigan, le code de l'éducation de l'enfance en difficulté fixe un nombre maximal d'élèves par classe pour certains programmes — six ou sept élèves dans certains cas, entre dix et quinze dans d'autres. Les enfants handicapés ont accès, de la naissance à l'âge de 25 ans, à un éventail complet de programmes et services spéciaux; passé l'âge de 25 ans, ce sont d'autres organismes qui interviennent. Un comité spécial de planification et de placement décide si un enfant doit fréquenter une école spéciale, ou une école ordinaire qui pourra lui assurer des services spéciaux. Un programme individualisé est mis en place pour chaque enfant, et revu chaque année. Ce service englobe le transport scolaire. Les écoles qui fournissent des services à l'enfance en difficulté de Détroit reçoivent des subventions des trois paliers de l'administration: municipale, Etat, gouvernement fédéral.

Les 27, 28 et 29 septembre 1979, Heather Rankin et Bill Hatt ont représenté le Conseil à un congrès organisé à Toronto par l'Ontario Federation for the Physically Handicapped et le ministère de l'Education. Ce colloque visait: 1) à attirer l'attention sur les besoins spéciaux des élèves physiquement handicapés; 2) à élaborer des stratégies en vue d'assurer à ces enfants des chances égales en matière d'éducation; 3) à explorer les subventions et services existants en vue d'assurer à ces enfants une éducation appropriée; 4) à apprendre comment favoriser un climat d'accueil envers les élèves physiquement handicapés. Les participants ont pu assister à des conférences, des ateliers de travail et des films sur les divers aspects de la vie quotidienne des personnes handicapées, ainsi qu'à la présentation d'équipement, de jeux et de matériel éducatif destinés aux enfants handicapés.

Groupe de travail sur la Partie 5 du Code du bâtiment de l'Ontario

En décembre 1978, la Direction du Code du bâtiment, du ministère de la Consommation et du



En janvier 1980, le Premier ministre a annoncé la mise sur pied d'un groupe de travail, présidé par Mme Margaret Schvener, députée à l'Assemblée législative, chargé d'élaborer un projet sur les perspectives du transport ferroviaire en Ontario. En réponse à une demande de ce groupe de travail, le Conseil a réaffirmé la position décrite dans l'énoncé ci-dessus et lui a offert son entière collaboration pour discuter en tout temps de tous les aspects de cette question.

## Comité de sensibilisation du public et d'accessibilité

Athol Layton, président  
Joe Arvey  
William Hatt  
William Watson

Ce comité a été mis sur pied le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 1979 pour sensibiliser davantage le public aux besoins des handicapés physiques. L'accessibilité des installations publiques étant très importante dans la sensibilisation du public, elle fait partie du nom même du comité.

## Nouvelles idées pour sensibiliser le public

Le comité a proposé qu'au cours de l'année 1981 — Année internationale des handicapés, une caravane circule dans les régions urbaines et rurales pour renseigner les personnes handicapées sur les programmes et services mis à leur disposition et sensibiliser le public aux besoins et aux aptitudes des personnes handicapées.

Le comité souhaite que ce projet soit mis sur pied par le Secrétaire à la Jeunesse, qu'il soit réalisé en collaboration avec des bénévoles et que parmi les étudiants embauchés, on compte un certain nombre de jeunes handicapés.

## Accessibilité des installations culturelles et récréatives

Au cours de la réunion du Conseil du 22 juin 1979, le comité s'est dit inquiet du gel des subventions imposé par le ministère des Affaires culturelles et des Loisirs en matière d'adaptation des installations. Après discussion, la proposition suivante a été approuvée à l'unanimité:

“Que M. Jack Longman, président du Conseil, écrive à l'honorable Margaret Birch pour qu'elle prie son collègue, l'honorable Reuben Baetz, d'étudier la possibilité de mettre fin au gel des subventions Wintario en vue d'aménager les installations culturelles et récréatives pour les rendre accessibles aux personnes physiquement handicapées.”

Madame Birch a répondu que le ministère des Affaires culturelles et des Loisirs entreprenait un inventaire des installations et des programmes culturels et récréatifs existant en Ontario ainsi qu'une étude des besoins insatisfaits des personnes handicapées. C'est sur cet inventaire et cette étude que le ministère se fondera à l'avenir pour établir les priorités et les critères des programmes de subventions.

Le 14 février 1980, M. Baetz a fait connaître les principes directeurs du Programme de subventions communautaires Wintario pour 1980-1981. Le 3 mars 1980, le Conseil écrivait ce qui suit à M. Baetz: “Tant que le gel des subventions sera maintenu, un grand nombre d'installations demeureront inaccessibles aux personnes physiquement handicapées. Nous sommes sûrs que cette mesure ne visait pas à gêner les handicapés, et nous vous prions de la reconsidérer à la lumière de votre préoccupation constante de “rejoindre tous les citoyens de l'Ontario”.”

M. Baetz a fait savoir que le gel du Programme de subventions n'était que temporaire et qu'il espérait être en mesure d'annoncer la mise sur pied d'un nouveau programme dans un avenir rapproché.

*Projets futurs du comité*

- Poursuivre le travail de sensibilisation du public aux problèmes et aux possibilités des personnes handicapées et renseigner ces dernières sur les programmes et les services qui existent à leur intention.
- Suivre l'évolution du dossier du Programme de subventions Wintario du ministère des Affaires culturelles et des Loisirs dans l'espoir que M. Baetz reconnaisse l'urgence de rendre les installations culturelles et récréatives accessibles aux handicapés.
- Travailler en étroite collaboration avec les autres comités du Conseil sur les questions relatives à la sensibilisation du public.

## Recherche sur les systèmes de fixation des fauteuils roulants

Le comité a demandé au Pr H. Wevers, du Department of Mechanical Engineering de l'Université Queen's de Kingston, de préparer un projet de recherche sur l'amélioration du système de fixation des fauteuils roulants dans les fourgonnettes et les adaptations nécessaires aux automobiles et aux fourgonnettes à l'usage des handicapés. Ce projet a été étudié avec des représentants du Kingston Bus for the Handicapped, des handicapés locaux et la présidente du comité sur le transport, Marian Webb.

Le Conseil a appuyé la proposition du Pr Wevers et la demande d'une subvention pour la réalisation de ce projet et présenté le tout au ministre des Transports et des Communications. La subvention a été approuvée et le projet, qui sera sous la surveillance du comité, devrait commencer dès mai 1980.

## Réduction de la taxe de vente sur les véhicules automobiles

Le Conseil a approuvé à l'unanimité une proposition recommandant que la loi sur la réduction de la taxe de vente lors de l'achat d'un véhicule automobile par une personne physiquement handicapée soit modifiée pour que puissent s'en prévaloir les handicapés qui ont besoin d'une automobile pour leur usage personnel sans qu'aucune adaptation ne soit nécessaire au véhicule. Le Conseil a recommandé en outre que le ministre du Revenu puisse exiger de l'acheteur une attestation écrite décrivant son invalidité et au besoin, un certificat de son médecin.

Le Conseil avait déjà demandé à l'honorable Margaret Birch de transmettre cette recommandation à l'honorable Lorne Macsek, ministre du Revenu, qui n'a pris encore aucun engagement en ce sens. Le comité entend suivre de près l'évolution de ce dossier.

## Transport rural

Le transport rural pour les handicapés physiques continue de préoccuper le comité.

Un mémoire sur les problèmes du transport des handicapés physiques dans les régions rurales a été présenté au Conseil par l'Association de la ville et du district de Barrie, au cours de la réunion de février dernier. Voici quelques-uns des points qui ont été soulevés.

- L'importance d'avoir des renseignements précis sur les horaires, les localités desservies, etc.
- Organiser un système de transport économique et pratique dans les localités où il n'existe pas de transports en commun et les territoires relevant d'autorités différentes et qui se chevauchent parfois, par exemple les villes, villages, cantons et comtés.
- Permettre aux handicapés l'accès à des moyens de transport à prix modique ou comparable à celui des régions urbaines.

Après discussion, la proposition suivante a été adoptée à l'unanimité:

"Le comité sur le transport estime que le mémoire de l'Association de la ville et du district de Barrie pour les handicapés physiques confirme l'importance de résoudre le problème du transport rural pour les handicapés, que le Conseil soulignait dans son rapport l'an dernier. Le comité souhaiterait une mise à jour des mesures qui ont été prises à la suite des recommandations découlant du projet de Bruce-Grey, subventionné par le ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires.

Les régions rurales n'étant pas comprises dans les politiques et programmes actuels du ministère des Transports et des Communications, le comité recommande au Conseil de faire part au ministre des problèmes mentionnés ci-dessus et de lui transmettre le présent rapport ainsi qu'un exemplaire de l'étude du projet de Guelph subventionné par le gouvernement fédéral." En réponse à ces problèmes, Mme Birch a demandé à l'honorable Keith Norton et à l'honorable James Snow d'étudier ces rapports et de lui faire part de leurs commentaires.

## Accessibilité des transports en commun

Les 26 et 27 novembre 1979, la Commission canadienne des transports, C.C.T., organisait à Ottawa des rencontres publiques sur l'accessibilité des transports en commun relevant de l'autorité fédérale. Dans une lettre à la C.C.T., le Conseil a fait les observations suivantes:

"Le Conseil constate de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques et son comité sur le transport prend également la Commission canadienne des transports de prendre des mesures pour que les installations de transport adéquat et renforcé soient adéquatement accessibles aux handicapés physiques."







Comité sur le transport

Marian Webb, présidente  
Joe Arvay  
Lois Harte-Maxwell  
Jack Longman  
Délégues auprès du comité:

Ed Blake  
Tom Gregor  
Lyle Pringle  
Margaret Young

Séminaire sur la conduite automobile et les handicapés

Le 15 juin 1979, le Conseil paratait, en collaboration avec le Centre de soins aux enfants infirmes de l'Ontario et l'Association canadienne pour les paraplégiques, le deuxième séminaire sur la conduite automobile et les handicapés, organisé par le comité. Ce séminaire, qui visait à réunir les personnes intéressées à la conduite automobile pour les handicapés, a attiré de nombreux participants: ergothérapeutes, physiothérapeutes, moniteurs, représentants de compagnies d'assurances et d'organismes au service des handicapés physiques et de différents ministères provinciaux.

Stationnement réservé dans les centres de service

Après une étude sur les aires de stationnement réservées aux handicapés physiques dans les centres de services le long des autoroutes 400 et 401, le comité a suggéré que des panneaux de signalisation soient installés bien en évidence, par exemple sur des poteaux, pour indiquer l'existence d'espaces de stationnement réservés aux handicapés. Le 21 novembre 1979, le Conseil a écrit à l'honorable James Snow concernant le manque apparent d'espaces de stationnement réservés aux handicapés. M. Snow a répondu que les mesures appropriées sont déjà prises pour s'assurer que ces espaces soient toujours bien identifiés.

9. Préparation d'un catalogue complet de prothèses et appareils spéciaux

• Que le gouvernement, par le biais du ministère ou de l'organisme approprié, prépare un catalogue d'appareils spéciaux pour les handicapés, comprenant des renseignements sur leur coût, leur accessibilité, leur efficacité, etc. Que les handicapés et les personnes qui travaillent avec eux soient informés de l'existence de ce catalogue et de la façon de se le procurer.

10. Centres d'entretien du matériel spécialisé

• Que le gouvernement se serve de ses ressources et de son influence pour mettre sur pied un réseau provincial de centres d'entretien du matériel spécialisé et que des mesures soient prises pour que le matériel équivalent soit prêt aux handicapés pendant la durée des réparations.

11. Emplois appropriés aux handicapés

• Que le ministère du Travail constitue un registre central officiel des emplois offerts aux handicapés et accessible aux handicapés, aux employeurs et aux agences de placement.

12. Direction et coordination des programmes de recherche

• Que le gouvernement mette sur pied, par le biais du bureau ou du ministère approprié, un organisme central de coordination de la recherche et de la mise au point de matériel.

Projet de recherche à Sudbury

À la suite du forum tenu à Sudbury le 24 mai 1979 et en réponse à certains des problèmes soulevés au cours de cette rencontre, un projet de recherche a été mis en oeuvre pour déterminer la nature et l'ampleur des services de réadaptation de la région de Sudbury. Pour régler l'un des principaux problèmes soulevés, le manque de diversité industrielle de la région, il a été proposé d'agrandir l'atelier protégé à l'intention des handicapés physiques.

Trousse d'emploi

Le ministère du Travail, en collaboration avec le comité sur l'emploi et la réadaptation, a préparé une "trousse d'emploi" pour promouvoir l'emploi des personnes handicapées. Cette trousse contient des renseignements sur les différents aspects de l'emploi des handicapés physiques.

## Comité sur l'emploi et la réadaptation

William Murdock, président  
Gerald Cronin  
D<sup>r</sup> Albin Jousse  
Clare Millar  
Maurice Richard

Le comité sur l'emploi et la réadaptation a été mis sur pied par le Conseil en septembre 1978 pour étudier les nombreux problèmes relatifs à l'emploi des handicapés physiques et se renseigner sur les dernières découvertes en matière de réadaptation. Il a rencontré des représentants de plusieurs organismes, dont le ministère fédéral de l'Emploi et de l'Immigration, le ministère fédéral de la Main-d'oeuvre, le ministère du Travail, la Commission des accidents du travail, la Direction de la réadaptation professionnelle du ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires, le Conseil de planification sociale de la Communauté urbaine de Toronto, les Jewish Vocational Services, l'Institut national canadien pour les aveugles, etc.

### Identification des problèmes relatifs à l'emploi

Le problème principal des handicapés physiques est de se trouver un emploi. Une fois qu'ils ont un emploi, ils peuvent généralement se débrouiller assez bien, compte tenu des adaptations nécessaires aux installations de travail. Le comité a cherché des moyens:

a) de mettre au point une banque de renseignements sur l'aide technique dont les personnes handicapées ont besoin;

b) de coordonner le travail des personnes ressources et de fournir les renseignements nécessaires aux employeurs;

c) d'inciter les handicapés physiques à acquérir la formation et la compétence nécessaires pour obtenir un emploi.

### Recommandations du comité

Au cours de la réunion du Conseil du 15 février dernier, le comité a présenté son rapport, dont voici les recommandations principales:

1. Motivation et formation appropriée dès le jeune âge
  - Intégrer au programme de formation des enseignants des éléments qui leur permettent d'aider les élèves physiquement handicapés à développer toutes leurs possibilités.

2. Etude des différents types de services offerts aux handicapés
  - Fournir aux parents, médecins, personnel hospitalier, travailleurs sociaux et autres spécialistes chargés de soigner, de conseiller et d'orienter les personnes handicapées, l'information et la formation concernant les besoins spéciaux d'ordre physique, psychologique et social et les possibilités des handicapés.
3. Augmentation du nombre de personnes handicapées qui participent aux décisions qui les concernent
  - Dans toute la mesure du possible, que le gouvernement de l'Ontario confie à des personnes handicapées, lorsqu'elles ont la compétence nécessaire, les différents programmes publics qui les concernent; que les organismes privés en fassent autant avec leurs propres programmes.
4. Meilleure répartition des services offerts aux handicapés
  - Que le gouvernement de l'Ontario fasse un effort concerté pour mieux répartir les ressources et les services sans égard à la cause de l'invalidité.
5. Formation ou recyclage des handicapés
  - Que les ressources publiques soient orientées de manière à permettre aux handicapés de participer, dans toute la mesure possible, aux programmes actuels et d'être considérés comme des travailleurs à part entière. Même si cet objectif est prioritaire, il ne doit pas exclure les programmes spéciaux de formation.
6. Formation spéciale en vue de l'obtention d'un emploi
  - Que les programmes relevant des centres de réadaptation, des ateliers de travail, de la formation en cours d'emploi ou autres, soient surveillés et, au besoin, supervisés par le ministère du Travail de manière à s'assurer qu'ils permettent aux handicapés de se perfectionner ou de se préparer à un emploi éventuel.
7. Services d'évaluation de l'emploi ou de la formation en vue d'un emploi
  - Que ces services ne relèvent pas des ateliers protégés ou des ateliers de production.
8. Appareils et matériel spéciaux
  - Que les appareils et matériel spéciaux dont les handicapés ont souvent besoin pour obtenir ou conserver un emploi leur soient fournis gratuitement par le ministère approprié.



infirmes de l'Ontario, ouvrira ses portes dès le début de 1980.

Selon M. Timbrell, "la mise sur pied de ces installations a été rendue possible grâce aux efforts et à la collaboration soutenus du Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques et de l'Association de Cochrane-Timiskaming pour les enfants physiquement handicapés".

Le comité suivra de près l'évolution de ce dossier.

### Aide financière aux familles d'enfants gravement handicapés

Depuis mai 1977, le gouvernement de l'Ontario fournit une aide financière aux parents assumant la garde d'un enfant gravement handicapé. Le comité suit de près l'application de ce programme. Certains cas de familles qui ont de la difficulté à obtenir les prestations prévues ont été portés à l'attention du comité, qui les a signalés aux représentants du ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires. Aucune autre plainte ne nous a été communiquée par la suite. L'admissibilité aux prestations a été élargie et les demandes sont maintenant traitées beaucoup plus rapidement.

Le comité continuera à suivre ce dossier de près.

### Autres problèmes

• Le comité est d'avis que le matériel pédagogique actuel ne tient pas suffisamment compte de l'existence des personnes handicapées. Cette lacune a été portée par Mme Birch à l'attention du ministre de l'Éducation, qui s'est montrée très favorable à l'élaboration d'un livre de lecture qui présente des enfants de races différentes et des enfants en fauteuil roulant ou en béquilles. Cette orientation a été communiquée au Comité consultatif du ministère de l'Éducation sur la Circulaire 14 ainsi qu'à son organisme de liaison avec les éditeurs et les écoles, aux fins d'étude et de recommandations.

Le comité suivra de près l'élaboration du nouveau livre de lecture.

• À l'heure actuelle, il existe, à titre expérimental, quatre comités locaux des Services d'aide à l'enfance relevant du gouvernement de l'Ontario. Ils ont été mis sur pied pour coordonner les services locaux d'aide à l'enfance et le travail des fonctionnaires municipaux, des fournisseurs de services et des citoyens. Le comité a suivi de près les programmes et services administrés par la Division des services à l'enfance du ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires.

• En septembre 1979, le Dr John Darbyshire, directeur du Human Communication Unit de l'Université Queen's de Kingston, a expliqué au Conseil les problèmes de communication des personnes souffrant d'un handicap auditif. Des recherches ont été entreprises auprès des établissements pour les sourds et les malentendants en vue d'inventorier les besoins en matériel téléphonique, terminaux de téléimprimeur et de décodage, appareils auditifs et dispositifs de sécurité et d'alerte. Selon le Dr Darbyshire, il est urgent de s'occuper du dépistage des problèmes auditifs dès le jeune âge, beaucoup trop négligé jusqu'à maintenant. Le Dr Darbyshire a souligné en outre la faiblesse généralisée du rendement scolaire des enfants souffrant de problèmes auditifs et l'importance d'améliorer les normes des installations pédagogiques spécialisées.

Le comité a également rencontré le Révérend Robert Rumball, qui a parlé avec enthousiasme des écoles de sourds et indiqué qu'en raison des progrès importants accomplis récemment, le problème du faible rendement scolaire des enfants, souligné par le Dr Darbyshire, n'existe plus.

• En décembre 1979, le comité a discuté avec M. Keith Whittaker, de la Direction de l'enfance en difficulté du ministère de l'Éducation, du problème de l'évaluation des enfants. Ce dernier a expliqué les principes suivis par le ministère de l'Éducation pour évaluer tous les enfants au cours de la maternelle ou au début de la 1<sup>re</sup> année. Cette évaluation tient compte des antécédents médicaux et sociaux et comporte une rencontre entre les parents et les enseignants.

Certains membres du comité se sont inquiétés de ce que des enfants puissent être gardés en institution sans raison valable. Selon M. Whittaker, cela est peu probable en raison de l'intérêt qu'ont ces établissements à renvoyer les patients chez eux et des mesures de surveillance régulière qui sont prises.



L'objectif du programme est de faire en sorte que les adultes n'aient pas à déboursier pour les services de soutien tant que les frais ordinaires et extraordinaires sont couverts. Ce n'est qu'une fois satisfaits les besoins extraordinaires des handicapés physiques qu'on aurait recours à un mécanisme d'évaluation des revenus en application de la loi intitulée "Homemakers and Nurses Services Act" pour déterminer si un handicapé doit assumer les coûts des services de soutien.

Quant à la troisième préoccupation du Conseil sur le caractère non obligatoire de la loi actuelle, le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires abordera cette question lors de l'étude susmentionnée sur les services de soutien à domicile.

Le Conseil s'est inquiété de ce que les éléments touchant l'étude actuelle sur les handicapés physiques soient insuffisants pour répondre aux nombreuses questions concernant les coûts extraordinaires et a demandé que le ministre lui confirme si des études additionnelles seront entreprises dans ce domaine.

Le comité a discuté de la possibilité d'organiser une réunion avec des représentants des projets pilotes, en septembre ou en novembre 1980, et aimerait élargir la participation à tous les établissements qui disposent actuellement de mécanismes analogues de subventions, dans le but de voir ce qui se passe dans d'autres situations de groupe. L'accent sera mis sur les difficultés des locataires à obtenir des appareils orthopédiques.

**Appareils orthopédiques et autres**

Depuis mai 1976, le Conseil n'a cessé de demander des modifications aux dispositions du Régime d'assurance-maladie de l'Ontario pour que les prestations garanties couvrent les appareils orthopédiques et autres prescrits.

Le 28 février 1980, le Conseil a écrit de nouveau à l'honorable Margaret Birch pour connaître l'évolution du dossier relatif à ses recommandations sur les appareils orthopédiques et autres. Il a appris par la suite que la question du financement par le Régime d'assurance-maladie de l'Ontario des appareils orthopédiques et autres prescrits fait l'objet d'une révision par un comité interministériel, et que cette révision touche plusieurs aspects politiques. Le comité interministériel prévoit présenter son rapport au Conseil des ministres au printemps 1980.

**Loi intitulée "Homemakers and Nurses Services Act"**  
Le comité poursuit ses rencontres avec l'administration publique et divers organismes communautaires concernant la fourniture des services en général. Dans le cadre de ses délibérations, il a également rencontré diverses associations et des membres de l'administration publique.

**Comité sur les besoins spéciaux des enfants physiquement handicapés**

Dr William Orr, président  
Nellie Lemon  
Heather Rankin  
*Députée auprès du comité*  
Margaret McLeod

**Nouveau centre de soins aux enfants, région Nord-Est de l'Ontario**

Au cours de la réunion du 22 juin 1979, M. Joe Cashen, directeur des services de la Société pour les enfants infirmes de l'Ontario, a souligné l'insuffisance des installations de réadaptation pour les enfants physiquement handicapés du Nord-Est de l'Ontario et suggéré la mise en oeuvre par le ministère de la Santé d'un projet-pilote d'une durée de deux ans, à Timmins. Après discussion, le Conseil a résolu à l'unanimité de présenter à l'honorable Margaret Birch la proposition suivante: "Appuyant la proposition de la Société pour les enfants infirmes de l'Ontario, le Conseil propose la mise en oeuvre d'un projet-pilote de soins aux enfants handicapés, d'une durée de deux ans."

Dans sa réponse, Mme Birch a annoncé que le ministère de la Santé subventionnerait l'embauche d'une petite équipe de spécialistes comprenant un ergothérapeute, un physiothérapeute, un orthophoniste et un moniteur de conduite automobile pour mettre sur pied le plus tôt possible ce projet-pilote.

Le 7 novembre 1979, l'honorable Dennis Timbrell, ministre de la Santé, a annoncé la création, à Timmins, d'un centre de soins qui fournira des programmes et des services de réadaptation aux enfants handicapés du Nord-Est de l'Ontario. Ce centre, qui relèvera de la Société pour les enfants

- **Frais de service**  
Un certain nombre de questions ont été soulevées après la discussion sur les frais de service. Les préoccupations principales ont porté non seulement sur le caractère peu souhaitable de l'application de frais de service pour l'utilisation de services partagés, mais aussi sur une méthode équitable de calculer ces frais lorsque les services sont utilisés de façon très variable par les locataires. Mais ces questions sont restées sans réponse en raison de l'absence d'un représentant du ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires à la réunion de septembre 1979.
- **Choix et éviction des locataires**  
Le comité a discuté de la nécessité d'une évaluation plus rigoureuse des demandes des locataires pour faciliter le processus de sélection. A ce moment, le nombre des évictions avait été inférieur à 1 %, et quelques locataires avaient résilié d'eux-mêmes leurs baux.
- En novembre 1979, tout en approuvant les plans d'expansion du ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires, le comité lui fit part de ses préoccupations sur ces questions et sur l'accessibilité des services actuels, et prépara une proposition qui fut adoptée par le Conseil: "Que le Conseil consultât de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques écrite à l'honorable Margaret Birch pour réitérer ses recommandations passées sur le financement, les frais de service, le caractère non obligatoire de la loi et la définition des soins connexes, déjà contenues dans le rapport 1976 du comité sur les services de logement et de soutien."
- En janvier 1980, Madame Birch faisait savoir au Conseil que "la question de la définition la plus appropriée des soins connexes reste fondamentalement la même, le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires préférant l'expression plus large et plus générale de 'services de soutien'. Mais le ministère examinera les diverses définitions, y compris celle du Conseil, lors de la révision prochaine des services de soutien à domicile.
- Quant à la deuxième préoccupation du Conseil sur le recours à un mécanisme d'évaluation des ressources plutôt que des revenus, le ministère de la Santé étudie la question des coûts extraordinaires d'une invalidité par le biais d'un projet de recherche sur les besoins des handicapés. Les résultats de cette étude sont attendus au cours de l'été.
- Entre-temps, le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires procède à une révision de ses critères actuels d'évaluation des ressources.

- l'Ontario — à l'exclusion des établissements de santé ou de réadaptation. Cette liste comprend les établissements résidentiels et les projets financés par le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires en vertu de la Loi sur les établissements de bienfaisance et la Loi sur les foyers pour déficients mentaux, ainsi que les projets financés conjointement par le ministère du Logement et le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires. Elle indique les noms et numéros de téléphone des administrateurs, le nombre de résidents et les modes de financement.
- **Ecarts entre les loyers subventionnés**  
En septembre 1979, les locataires des quatre projets pilotes, qui reçoivent des prestations au titre du régime Gains-D, payaient un loyer mensuel qui variait de \$43 à Toronto (Clarendon, Société de logement de l'Ontario), à \$47 à Ottawa et à Windsor, et à \$75 à Thunder Bay. Le comité fut informé qu'un rapport conjoint avait été préparé par le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires et le ministère du Logement sur la question des écarts entre les loyers subventionnés, recommandant l'instauration d'une équité plus grande entre le Programme de loyers privés subventionnés du ministère du Logement (qui finance les projets de Clarendon et d'Ottawa) et le Programme sans but lucratif (Thunder Bay et Windsor). Le rapport prévoyait que le loyer de base utilisé serait celui actuellement adopté par la Société de logement de l'Ontario.
  - En février 1980, le comité apprit que cette recommandation semblait avoir été acceptée et allait être mise en vigueur. Les écarts qui pourraient subsister feront l'objet d'une discussion lors de la prochaine réunion du comité sur les projets pilotes.
  - **Rapports à jour sur chaque projet pilote**  
Ron Ross, de Thunder Bay, a présenté un rapport à jour sur l'orientation des nouveaux membres du personnel et des nouveaux locataires. Les aspects ci-après des projets d'Ottawa, de Toronto et de Windsor ont aussi fait l'objet de discussions: demande de logements, baux, période d'attente des futurs locataires, conseil des locataires, etc.



Comité des services de logement et  
de soutien

Jackie Rodger, président  
David Koivisto (démissionnaire)  
Donald Warden  
Marian Webb

Rapport sur les soins connexes et les services  
de soutien

Lors d'une réunion tenue en avril 1979, le Conseil a discuté de la définition des soins connexes. Il a envoyé à l'honorable Margaret Birch la définition ci-après, en la priant de la porter à la connaissance des honorables Dennis Timbrell, Keith Norton et Claude Bennett pour qu'ils fassent connaître leurs points de vue.

Définition des soins connexes

"Par soins connexes, on entend la fourniture, 24 heures par jour, des services dont peut avoir besoin une personne physiquement handicapée pour pouvoir accomplir, en un temps raisonnable, toutes les activités nécessaires de la vie quotidienne. Les soins connexes comprennent notamment, mais non exclusivement, les soins ci-après:

1. Soins d'hygiène personnelle: s'habiller et se déshabiller, douche et bain, soins des cheveux et de la peau, rasage, maquillage, besoins naturels ordinaires de l'évacuation des intestins et de la vessie.
2. Soins d'ordre physique: lessive, petits et gros travaux d'entretien, emplettes, préparation et service des repas, alimentation, entretien des appareils spéciaux, déplacements en fauteuil roulant.
3. Aide pour les besoins essentiels de la communication."

En juillet 1979, Madame Birch communiquait au Conseil les observations suivantes:

L'honorable Dennis Timbrell est d'accord avec la définition du Conseil, qui lui semble présenter un intérêt particulier pour les divers ministères et organismes qui assurent des services aux handicapés physiques. Son ministère est prêt à utiliser cette définition pour promouvoir l'uniformisation de la terminologie et la clarté d'intention lors des discussions sur la dotation des programmes à l'intention des handicapés physiques.

L'honorable Keith Norton a également étudié la définition présentée par le Conseil et croit que ses

éléments ont été identifiés de façon simple et claire. Fait intéressant à souligner, le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires recourt également à l'expression "services de soutien" comme autre terme plus général qui peut être utilisé pour englober tous les éléments que le Conseil a identifiés, ainsi que certains autres.

Le fait que la définition du Conseil n'ait pas d'aspect médical présente un intérêt particulier pour le ministère, car il est important de pouvoir distinguer les services de soutien des services sous surveillance médicale fournis en application du Programme de soins à domicile pour malades chroniques, du ministère de la Santé. Presque tous les éléments, sinon la totalité, de la définition du Conseil peuvent être inclus dans la définition des "services à domicile" des Services sociaux et communautaires, que l'on trouve dans la loi intitulée "Homemakers and Nurses Services Act".

Le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires a l'intention de préparer un document consultatif, à l'automne 1979, sur les services de soutien à domicile. Les responsables de ce travail accorderont toute l'attention qu'elle mérite à la définition des soins connexes élaborée par le Conseil.

Le 12 février 1980, la Direction des services aux adultes du ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires a distribué à divers organismes ainsi qu'au Conseil des exemplaires d'une publication intitulée "Community Dialogue on Home Support Services", sollicitant leur avis avant le 10 mars et les avisant qu'une rencontre aurait lieu le 25 mars 1980 pour discuter de cette publication. Le comité des services de logement et de soutien s'est inquiété du peu de temps accordé pour étudier ce document et fait savoir qu'il faudrait prolonger le délai pour que les divers groupes puissent mieux préparer leurs mémoires.

Le 25 mars, la présidente du comité, Jackie Rodger, a représenté le Conseil lors d'une rencontre des organismes nationaux et provinciaux. Mais en raison du manque de temps pour préparer un document élaboré, ses observations n'ont porté que sur quelques principes de base et sur les positions prises par le Conseil dans le passé sur certains des problèmes faisant l'objet de cet échange public sur les services de soutien à domicile.

Liste des ressources résidentielles pour les  
personnes handicapées

Le comité a préparé une liste des ressources résidentielles pour les personnes handicapées de



modifications au Code des droits de l'homme en vue de protéger les droits des handicapés. Inutile de dire que c'est là une mesure qui nous réjouit, et nous espérons que les modifications qui seront apportées tiendront compte de toutes les recommandations contenues dans le rapport "Life Together" publié en 1977 par le Comité de révision du Code.

J'aimerais rappeler un problème déjà mentionné l'an dernier, celui de la collaboration insuffisante ou inexistante entre les divers organismes publics et privés au service des handicapés, qui entraîne parfois un chevauchement ou un doublement des services, voire des écarts importants entre les régions. Voilà un problème qu'il faut absolument résoudre. Nous avons également insisté l'an dernier sur l'importance d'accroître le nombre des personnes handicapées qui participent aux décisions à l'intérieur des organismes et associations qui sont à leur service. Personne, fût-il animé des meilleures intentions, ne connaît mieux les problèmes des handicapés que les handicapés eux-mêmes.

Je m'en voudrais de passer sous silence l'intérêt et l'appui si précieux qu'ont apportés au Conseil l'honorable Margaret Birch et son personnel. Toutes les recommandations et demandes que nous avons présentées au Secrétariat ont reçu une oreille attentive et fait l'objet des mesures appropriées. Vous me permettrez aussi de remercier tout particulièrement notre chef administratif, Gerry Clarke, pour l'appui indéfectible qu'il accorde au Conseil et à son président. Il connaît à fond tous les rouages des activités du Conseil, et nous apprécions tous ses conseils judicieux.

Jack Longman



Le président

L'année 1981 sera l'Année internationale des handicapés. Cela nous donne un an pour nous y préparer, et je formule le vœu que les activités du Conseil au cours du prochain exercice portent en grande partie sur la réalisation de cet objectif. Voilà une occasion exceptionnelle pour le Conseil, les divers autres organismes et les handicapés eux-mêmes, de sensibiliser le public aux problèmes quotidiens des handicapés, et surtout de bien montrer que les handicapés peuvent apporter une contribution positive à la société, si seulement on leur en laisse la chance. C'est une image radicalement nouvelle des handicapés qu'il est possible de présenter aux personnes non handicapées, et peut-être même aux handicapés eux-mêmes.

En raison des progrès accomplis au cours de l'année pour améliorer les conditions de vie des handicapés, je me sens plus que payé de mes peines pour le travail que j'ai assumé à la présidence du Conseil. À tous ceux qui m'ont secondé sans compter et sans fléchir, ma plus vive reconnaissance!

C'est la deuxième fois que j'ai l'honneur de présenter, en ma qualité de président du Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques, le rapport des activités du Conseil. A bien des égards, les problèmes auxquels nous faisons face n'ont pas changé, mais il est encourageant de constater que nous avons fait des progrès dans la voie des solutions. Il est vrai que les choses ne sont pas toujours faciles et qu'il faut s'armer de patience, mais rien ne sert de courir . . .

Le Conseil a connu une autre année bien remplie, que je ne décrirai pas en détail: le lecteur pourra s'en rendre compte en parcourant le présent rapport, dont chaque paragraphe représente des heures nombreuses de dévouement et de travail ardu de la part de tous les membres du Conseil, des divers délégués auprès des comités, ainsi que du personnel administratif. L'essentiel du travail du Conseil est actuellement effectué par ses différents comités, permanents et temporaires. Aux présidents et aux membres de ces divers comités, je tiens à exprimer mes plus sincères remerciements pour leur dévouement inlassable et leur collaboration soutenue. Sans eux, le Conseil ne serait qu'une coquille vide. Je vous invite à lire avec attention le rapport des activités de chaque comité.

Cette année encore, les forums comptent parmi les grandes réalisations du Conseil. Nous en avons organisé un à Sudbury, en mai, et un autre à Cambridge, en octobre. Les participants ont été nombreux, et les mémoires présentées ont permis de mieux comprendre les problèmes de ces régions. Naturellement, nous n'avons pas toutes les solutions, mais ces colloques permettent de mieux définir certains problèmes et de comparer les solutions mises de l'avant dans d'autres régions. Je tiens à remercier Gerry Cronan, Clare Millar et leurs comités respectifs de Sudbury et de Cambridge, pour le succès de ces rencontres. Mes remerciements s'adressent également aux édiles municipaux et aux citoyens de Sudbury et de Cambridge, pour leur chaleureuse hospitalité.

Lors de chacune de ces rencontres, un grand nombre de personnes nous ont beaucoup aidés en partageant avec nous leurs préoccupations et leurs connaissances. Je tiens à les remercier, au nom de tous mes collègues, d'avoir participé à ces forums malgré leurs nombreuses activités. C'est à leur collaboration et à leur compétence que nous devons un grand nombre de nos observations et recommandations.

Au cours de l'année écoulée, nous avons apporté certaines modifications aux structures du Conseil. Jusqu'ici, la liaison avec le Secrétariat aux Affaires sociales était assurée par Jill Hutcheon, analyste des

politiques. Mais les nouvelles fonctions qu'elle a assumées nous ont obligés à passer par un nouvel intermédiaire, Bob Waterhouse, coordonnateur des Services de réadaptation. Nous remercions Madame Hutcheon de son travail et lui offrons nos meilleurs vœux. Il existe entre les Services de réadaptation et le Conseil une collaboration dynamique, dont nous sommes assurés qu'elle se continuera. Madame Elizabeth Szalowski, membre de la direction du Conseil consultatif des personnes âgées, a été nommée dirigeante principale de trois Conseils consultatifs. En cette qualité, elle assiste notre personnel dans ses relations avec le Secrétariat. Nous tenons à l'assurer de notre collaboration la plus entière. Norman Lawson, ex-adjoint administratif, à qui nous devons dans une grande mesure plusieurs rapports annuels du Conseil, nous a quittés pour occuper de nouvelles fonctions, et son départ sera vivement regretté. Nous avons eu le plaisir d'accueillir, il y a environ un an, Leila Tikaram, dont l'intérêt et l'enthousiasme pour les activités du Conseil ne se sont jamais démentis, notamment dans la tenue des procès-verbaux.

Nous avons eu cette année, sans aucun doute, un plus grand nombre de débats d'envergure que par le passé, qui ont donné lieu à de nombreux échanges de points de vue différents. Voilà qui est très précieux, car cela permet de prendre des décisions plus éclairées, qui tiennent compte de toutes les opinions exprimées. Si des divergences sont apparues de temps en temps à la suite d'échanges vigoureux, elles témoignent de l'accueil respectueux que font les membres à l'opinion d'autrui et de la liberté d'expression qui règne aux réunions du Conseil. Je formule le vœu que ces échanges fructueux se poursuivent au cours du nouvel exercice.

La question la plus débattue au cours de l'année a sans contredit été le projet de loi 188 sur les droits des personnes handicapées. Il est malheureux que le gouvernement n'ait pas discuté d'abord de ce projet de loi avec les personnes handicapées elles-mêmes. Comme les membres du Conseil partageaient trois points de vue différents, et que les divers organismes et associations au service des handicapés avaient aussi des vues divergentes, le gouvernement a retiré son projet de loi. Avec la sagesse que donne un certain recul, il m'apparaît juste de dire que personne n'avait entièrement raison ni entièrement tort. Nous n'avons peut-être pas suffisamment respecté les opinions des autres, ni cherché à comprendre leurs raisons. Mais il faut souhaiter que nous sortions tous enrichis de cette expérience! Dans le discours du Trône du 11 mars 1980, le gouvernement a indiqué qu'il consultera les organismes communautaires avant d'apporter des



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- handicapés physiques et faire des recommandations appropriées, à la lumière des connaissances et de l'expérience de ses membres;
- b) encourager les citoyens de l'Ontario à exprimer leurs points de vue sur toute question relative aux handicapés physiques;
- c) promouvoir auprès de ces derniers toutes les occasions de participer à des programmes familiaux et communautaires d'aide autonome;
- d) examiner les politiques et programmes concernant les handicapés physiques;
- e) informer régulièrement le Secrétaire de la Province aux Affaires sociales de l'évolution des activités du Conseil;
- f) présenter au Secrétaire de la Province aux Affaires sociales un rapport annuel des activités et réalisations du Conseil.

Le Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques a été constitué le 5 février 1975 par un décret du conseil des ministres approuvé par le Lieutenant-gouverneur de l'Ontario. Outre son président, il comprend au plus vingt membres choisis dans toute la province, dont plus de la moitié sont des handicapés physiques. Tous les membres du Conseil ont acquis une certaine expérience auprès des organismes qui s'occupent des handicapés.

- Voici quel est le mandat du Conseil:
1. De façon générale, conseiller le Secrétaire de la Province aux Affaires sociales sur toute question relative aux handicapés physiques de l'Ontario.
2. De façon plus particulière, mais sans exclure d'autres tâches:
- a) identifier et étudier les problèmes des

Membres du Conseil

Jack W. Longman, président	WindSOR	Nellie Lemon	CocheNour
William Watson, vice-président	Keswick	Clare R. Millar	CambRidge
Joseph Arway	WindSOR	William L. MURdock	London
Toby Brooks	Ottawa	William J. Orr	St. Catharines
Gerald W. Cronin	Sudbury	Heather Rankin	Willowdale
Lois Harte-Maxwell	Peterborough	Maurice Richard	Ottawa
William Hatt	KingsTON	Jackie Rodger	Toronto
Albin T. Jousse	Toronto	Donald Warden	Stayner
Peter KingSMill	Don Mills	Marian Webb	KingsTON
David G. Koivisto (démisSionnaire)	Thunder Bay	John Yorke	West Hill
Athol Layton	Toronto		

Adresse du Conseil

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M5G 1Z6  
Téléphone: (416) 965-9537

Personnel administratif

Gerald F. Clarke, chef administratif  
Norman D. Lawson, adjoint administratif (démisSionnaire)  
Leila B. Tikaram, secrétaire



L'honorable Margaret Birch  
Secrétaire de la Province  
aux Affaires sociales



Jack Longman  
Président





Cinquième rapport annuel du  
Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario  
sur les handicapés physiques  
pour la période de douze mois  
terminée le 31 mars 1980



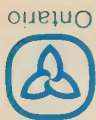


Conseil consultatif  
de l'Ontario  
sur les handicapés  
physiques



Symbole international d'accès

# Cinquième rapport annuel





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# Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped



International Symbol of Access

## Sixth Annual Report





**Sixth Annual Report of the  
Ontario Advisory Council  
on the Physically Handicapped  
for the twelve-month period  
ending March 31, 1981**







The Honourable Margaret Birch  
Provincial Secretary for  
Social Development



Jack Longman  
Chairman



William Watson  
Vice-Chairman

## Organization and aims of the Council

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The Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped was established on February 5, 1975 by an Order-in-Council approved by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. The Council consists of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and 19 members, who are drawn from across the province. Over half of the members are physically handicapped and all possess experience with agencies or organizations working for and with the handicapped.

The mandate of the Council is:

1. To advise the Provincial Secretary for Social Development on matters pertaining to physically handicapped persons in our society.
2. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing:
  - (a) To identify and study issues of concern to physically handicapped persons and, on the

basis of the knowledge and experience of Council Members, to recommend action where appropriate;

- (b) To encourage residents of Ontario to express their views on matters relating to the physically handicapped;
- (c) To promote opportunities for self-help for the physically handicapped in the context of family and community;
- (d) To review programs and policies affecting physically handicapped persons;
- (e) To advise the Provincial Secretary for Social Development on a regular basis of progress in the Council's work;
- (f) To submit to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development an annual report outlining the Council's activities and achievements.

## Membership of the Council

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\* Jack W. Longman, Chairman  
\* William Watson, Vice-Chairman  
Myron Angus  
Joseph Arvay  
Toby Brooks  
Gerald W. Cronin (retired)  
Fernand Dame  
Jim Gerrond  
Beverly Gray  
Janice Harris  
Lois Harte-Maxwell (resigned)  
\* William Hatt  
Albin T. Jousse  
Audrey King

Windsor  
Keswick  
Port Stanley  
Windsor  
Ottawa  
Sudbury  
Kapuskasing  
Toronto  
Ottawa  
Belleville  
Peterborough  
Kingston  
Toronto  
Toronto

Peter G. Kingsmill  
Nellie Lemon (retired)  
Athol Layton  
Leonard Lotecki  
Clare R. Millar (retired)  
\* William L. Murdock  
\* William J. Orr  
Heather Rankin (resigned)  
Maurice Richard (retired)  
\* Jackie Rodger  
Donald Warden (retired)  
\* Marian Webb  
John Yorke (retired)  
Joseph West  
Don Mills  
Cochenour  
Toronto  
Dryden  
Cambridge  
London  
St. Catharines  
Willowdale  
Ottawa  
Toronto  
Stayner  
Kingston  
West Hill  
St. Catharines

\* **Executive Committee members**

## Council Office

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Phone: (416) 965-9537

## Staff

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Gerald F. Clarke, Executive Officer  
Leila B. Tikaram, Administrative Assistant



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## Chairman's remarks

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By the time this report finds its way into print, International Year of Disabled Persons will have entered its last quarter. We are aware of a good many projects which are being undertaken – of sufficient importance and magnitude that they will last far beyond the Year itself. We expect great things to continue to happen so that when our efforts are all concluded we can feel sure the entire period was well worth the work. The Advisory Council itself has made a number of recommendations to government and has also done its part to encourage others to participate in this memorable Year.

1981 is also the sixth anniversary of the inception of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped. Examining the basic mandate (recorded elsewhere in this report), we might well turn the eyes of analysis inward and ask ourselves the question – has the Council accomplished what it was assigned to do? A few of us involved with the Council from the very beginning tend to be a bit subjective, but any examination of the records, would, in all fairness, have to concede that we have tried and will continue to try...making, we feel sure, steady progress each year. On a solid foundation we have set out to build, and build we do.

This year has seen the loss of two of our charter members; the first Chairman, Edward Dunlop and Council Member, Clare Millar...both disabled in World War II, successful in their personal lives and dedicated to the improvement of the quality of life for disabled persons in Ontario and throughout Canada.

Both will be sorely missed by the handicapped community and the community at large where their efforts will be long remembered.

Examining the membership list of the Council reveals that no less than eight new members have arrived on the scene. While it is always a sad jolt to have older, familiar faces disappear (either through resignation or conclusion of their terms of office) “new blood” is always welcome; in fact, vital if the organization is to continue to grow and thrive. To those who have left our ranks – our sincere best wishes and thanks for a job well done. We know all of them will continue to serve the handicapped community whenever the opportunity arises. The new members bring their own brand of experience and insight. I have read background material on all of them and I know they are well versed in the work we are doing; they will make a dynamic contribution to the Council.

While again this year we had only one Public Forum, beyond any doubt it was one of the real

highlights of the Council Year. The Handicapped Community of Ottawa hosted us and provided an excellent opportunity for us to be exposed to the problems of their area, as well as learning of the actions being taken to overcome these problems. It certainly enhanced our stay, as well, to have it held in the Nation's Capital where the City Hall was an ideal site for such a Forum. We would offer our thanks to all who made up the Host Committee and those who made individual presentations as well. It is our hope that the handicapped of the district benefited from their opportunity to share with us their concerns and hopes for the future.

This year for the first time, we held a Council meeting (other than one following a Public Forum) outside Toronto. In November, we met as a Council in Hamilton, following an Executive meeting the night before when we were introduced to some local handicapped organizations...a worthwhile experience we would like to try again at some time in the future.

In addition to these varied highlights, we were also gratified when several Ministries approached us for advice on plans they were formulating to help the physically handicapped...not merely during International Year of Disabled Persons but long into the future as well. We look on this as one of our primary roles...not nearly as well developed in the past as we would like but greatly improving as time goes on. (I have no doubt that those Ministries which did consult with us, found our people ready, willing and able to listen, to offer advice, help, assistance, in fact, some real expertise that should be of great value as they develop their plans for the handicapped). We welcome future consultations from any and all Ministries and Agencies and promise we will constantly strive to earn and maintain their respect and confidence.

Again this year, we had the complete co-operation and support of the Honourable Margaret Birch. Her deep interest in promoting a better life for the physically handicapped continues to inspire us and prompts us to work all the harder to be worthy of her trust in her Advisory Council.

Personally, I was grateful for the support of Deputy Ministers – Alan Backley, initially, and later in the year, Ward Cornell and Ethel McLellan. Whenever I called on these Deputies in my role as Chairman, I found them eager to assist in any way possible.

This was also the first full year of liaison between our Council and the Secretariat – through the office of the Co-Ordinator of Rehabilitation, Bob Waterhouse. I feel that this relationship has worked well. Bob has been of great help to us not only in attending our

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meetings but also up-dating us on the work being done within his office. It is my view that the Council and the Co-Ordinator of Rehabilitation can complement one another effectively with both Offices doing a better job of serving the handicapped.

Often the Chairman of a Council such as ours tends to be singled out for a lot of publicity and credit but I am quite aware of the simple truth that a Chairman is only as good as the people around him. I feel especially fortunate to have the opportunity to work with talented and dedicated people and I would like to thank the Vice Chairman of the Council, Bill Watson and each of the Committee Chairpersons for their tireless, unstinting work.

I am especially indebted to each member of the Council of whom some special assignment was asked. No one turned me down. Not once. Needless to say, our staff has done a great deal again this year to make our work as successful as it has been. Sincere thanks are due, not only from

myself but from all the members of Council, to Executive Officer Gerry Clarke, Administrative Assistant Leila Tikaram and the Senior Executive Officer Elizabeth Szalowski.

1981 International Year of Disabled Persons has certainly focussed a global spotlight on the physically handicapped in our midst but we might do well to remember that the Advisory Council has been working on this "project" for the last six years and has every intention of persevering onward to the realization of our lofty goals through many, many years which lie ahead.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. W. Longman', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jack Longman  
Chairman



# International Year of Disabled Persons - 1981 (I.Y.D.P.)

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1981 was proclaimed the International Year of Disabled Persons by the United Nations.

In 1979 the Provincial Government established an Interministerial Committee consisting of representatives from 20 ministries. The aim of this Committee is to enhance the programs and increase the effectiveness of the services for the disabled administered by the various ministries.

The Honourable Margaret Birch held a number of meetings in early 1980, with physically handicapped individuals and representatives of agencies, organizations, business, industry, labour and the Church, to discuss plans for IYDP. The Advisory Council participated in each of these meetings.

A Canadian Organizing Committee, made up of approximately 25 persons from across Canada, was formed by the Federal Government to plan for 1981. Council Chairman Jack Longman was appointed to that Committee. The mandate of the Committee is to give overall direction to programs for IYDP; advise the Government of Canada on matters relating to 1981; initiate special events; and to administer a community Liaison Program; a Special Project Fund and a Public Information Program.

Representatives of the Ontario Society for Crippled Children and Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled, were invited to speak to Council at its meeting of August 21, 1980, to discuss their projects for 1981.

Council's Committees reviewed and prioritized their past recommendations which were forwarded to Mrs. Birch, as worthwhile undertakings for IYDP. The priorities are as follows:

## **Accommodation and Support Services Committee**

- (a) Major external prosthetic, orthotic AND OTHER ESSENTIAL ASSISTIVE DEVICES be furnished as an insured benefit, where such devices are prescribed by medical or other authorized personnel. In addition to the cost of the devices, the cost of related skilled services be met, and the same provisions be extended to the replacement or repair of such devices.
- (b) The Province of Ontario undertake the establishment of a grant program which will enable essential modifications required, because of a physical disability, to be made to the residence of the individual with said disability.
- (c) Attention be given to the implementation of the Advisory Council's recommendation on Attendant Care.

(Editor's Note: For recommendation on Attendant Care, refer to Accommodation and Support Services Committee report herein. Definition of Attendant Care is on file at the Council's office).

## **Employment/Rehabilitation Committee**

- (a) The review of various kinds of services available to the handicapped by the appropriate ministries, i.e. specific special emotional and social needs, as well as knowledge of the realistic potential of the handicapped be provided to parents, doctors, teachers, nurses, social workers and other professionals who are involved in treating, advising, training and counselling handicapped persons.

## **Special Needs of Physically Handicapped Children's Committee**

- (a) A Grade One text should be composed to complement those already in use, showing multi-racial children and some who might use wheelchairs and/or crutches.

## **Public Awareness and Accessibility Committee**

- (a) A public awareness program be initiated within the school system, and suitable handicapped individuals, in conjunction with voluntary agencies, should visit the schools to demonstrate their abilities. Appropriate films could also be used to support the program.

## **Transportation Committee**

- (a) The need for attention to and action on rural transportation problems.

The Honourable Margaret Birch made a statement to the Legislature on December 12, 1980, regarding IYDP, in which she outlined some of the projects already underway.

In her statement she said that the Ontario Government allocated \$12 million, which will enable initiation of additional programs, identified as high priorities by disabled people in the community, during IYDP.

The Minister of Community and Social Services, in a News Release dated December 30, 1980, announced his Ministry's initiatives for 1981. The Ministry, has earmarked approximately \$400,000 in 1981/82 for the provision of intervenor services for persons who are blind and deaf. In addition to intervenor services, the Ministry has earmarked approximately \$100,000 for the development of interpreter services for profoundly deaf persons. These services involve the use of sign language to translate the spoken word for those who cannot hear.

The Minister of Culture and Recreation announced, in a News Release, that his ministry is accepting applications for Wintario grants to capital projects that are designed to make cultural and recreational facilities more readily accessible to disabled people.

The Minister also announced that a special Wintario grant of \$375,000 was approved to the 1981 Co-ordinating Committee of the Ontario Federation for the Physically Handicapped.

# Major issues studied by Committees and Council, April 1980 - March 1981

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## Accommodation and Support Services Committee

Jackie Rodger, Chairman  
Audrey King  
Donald Warden (retired)  
Marian Webb

### Assistive devices

The matter of assistive devices has been an on-going concern for this Committee since May 1976, when the Advisory Council endorsed a motion pressing for amendment to the provisions of the Ontario Hospital Insurance Plan (OHIP) to include prescribed assistive devices as an insured benefit.

In May 1980, a student, under the 'Experience '80 Program, was assigned to work with this Committee to study the provision of assistive devices. The objectives of the study were:

- documentation of the various sources of financial assistance in procuring assistive devices, including eligibility for and limitations of assistance.
- to determine by individual case histories, the financial impact and other difficulties currently being experienced by a sampling of approximately 25 handicapped individuals.

Various agencies, public and private, were contacted to determine the extent of their role in providing assistive devices.

A report on this study was prepared and presented to Council in August 1980.

(Editor's Note: Copy of report is on file at the Council's Office).

Subsequent to a review of the study, at its October 24 meeting, Council endorsed the following motion reiterating its past recommendation on this matter, which was forwarded together with a copy of the study to the Honourable Margaret Birch, requesting that a definite position on this issue be taken by the Ministry of Health before March 1, 1981:

- "Whereas Council has further investigated the problem of funding of assistive devices and determined that:
- (a) there continues to exist a maze of funding channels and mechanisms, most of which are selective in nature,
  - (b) many essential devices are dependent upon charitable dollars.

Therefore Council re-affirms its past recommendation that the provisions of OHIP be amended so that:

- (1) major external prosthetic, orthotic AND OTHER ESSENTIAL ASSISTIVE DEVICES be furnished as an insured benefit, where such devices are prescribed by medical or other authorized personnel,
- (2) in addition to the cost of the devices, the cost of related skilled services be met, and,
- (3) the same provisions be extended to the replacement or repair of such devices."

In a response dated December 1980, Mrs. Birch advised the Advisory Council that: "the matter of assistive devices is under very active review by the ministers in the Social Development field. As my colleague the Honourable Dennis Timbrell has indicated in the House, a policy statement will be made concerning assistive devices early in the International Year of Disabled Persons.

"The Council's past support for initiatives in the area of assistive devices and the report referred to above have aided my staff and colleagues in dealing with this very important issue."

Discussions have since taken place between various ministries, in the Social Policy Field and representatives of agencies and organizations serving the handicapped, and the matter is still under very active review.

### Home Support Services

In February 1980 the Adult Services Division of the Ministry of Community and Social Services, circulated copies of their questionnaire on "Community Dialogue on Home Support Services" to agencies, organizations and the Advisory Council.

Meetings of Provincial and National organizations were held, at which Committee Chairman Jackie Rodger presented an informal response outlining the Council's concerns with policies in this area. At a later meeting the Accommodation and Support Services Committee discussed the many issues involved. It was difficult to prioritize except by individual needs, and the conclusion was reached that an optional method of increasing opportunities for independent living would be by direct payment to the consumer.

The following motion was unanimously endorsed by the Advisory Council, and forwarded to Mrs. Birch:



“Whereas the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped firmly believes that the majority of physically handicapped individuals are capable of directing and controlling their own lives and accepting responsibilities for the decisions thereof, and,

whereas for many individuals the best solution to a home support services problem is highly individualistic in nature, and,

whereas the availability in terms of amount and eligibility related to home support services is widely variable or non-existent throughout the province,

therefore be it resolved that the proposed legislation with regard to home support services include a mechanism to allow for direct payment to the individuals in need of services in order for them to design and control a service program peculiar to their individual circumstances.”

Mrs. Birch responded stating, in part: “as you are aware, the Ministry of Community and Social Services is currently conducting a study on home support services with the intent of producing appropriate legislation in the spring. Mr. Norton advises that as a part of this exercise, the Task Force has been instructed to examine the feasibility of making cash payments to individuals to arrange for their own home support services.”

It was noted in a letter dated December 23, 1980 from the Ministry of Community and Social Services that the key issue with respect to Home Support Services had been reviewed. This process was completed late November 1980, and a paper was developed which outlined the conclusions reached.

The paper was discussed with the Cabinet Committee, who directed the Ministries of Health, and Community and Social Services to review their respective programs and develop options for improved co-ordination. The two Ministries will be examining means to more effectively harmonize the homemaker aspects of the Ministry of Health Acute/Chronic Home Care Program and the Ministry of Community and Social Services' Home Support Services.

The Minister of Community and Social Services advised the Advisory Council, in a letter dated March 27, 1981 that Home Support Services is an extremely complex issue and the review is still in process.

## Support Services Projects

In the area of Support Services Projects, i.e. integrated housing projects and Group Homes, the Ministry of Community and Social Services released a set of Consultation Proposals - Policy Framework for Support Services Projects in late December 1980. Committee Chairman Jackie Rodger attended the preparatory meetings and presented discussion papers addressing the above proposals.

*(Editor's Note: Revised proposals were released in April 1981)*

## Demonstration Projects

The Committee discussed the possibility of holding further meetings with representatives of the demonstration projects located in Ottawa, Thunder Bay, Toronto and Windsor. It would like to broaden the attendance to include all facilities now being offered the similar funding mechanism, in an attempt to monitor how well it is working in other group situations. One matter to receive particular consideration would be to determine what problems tenants are experiencing in obtaining assistive devices.

In the past, representation from each demonstration project consisted of one staff member and one volunteer (Board member). The Committee feels that Council should continue to monitor the funding and operation of the demonstration projects, and to facilitate an exchange of information among them. It was further suggested that, rather than holding meetings with the demonstration projects, perhaps a seminar on Accommodation and Support Services might be considered. All 'group living' and apartment projects in the province would be invited to partake. Details of the seminar will be worked out by this Committee for recommendation to Council.

*(Editor's Note: Due to the Ministry of Community and Social Services' consultation regarding support services projects, the proposed seminar was postponed until policies were finalized and in effect).*

## List of Residential facilities

A list of residential facilities for physically handicapped persons in the province prepared by this Committee was up-dated. The list includes residences and/or projects funded under the Ministry of Community and Social Services through its Charitable Institutions Act and Homes for Retarded Persons Act, as well as those projects under joint funding by the Ministries of Housing and Community and Social Services. Facilities that are health or rehabilitation oriented were excluded from the list. Copies of the list are available from the Council's office.



**Ontario Home Renewal Program**

The Committee met with representatives of the Community Renewal Branch of the Ministry of Housing, to discuss recommended changes to the program. While the Committee was not opposed to the changes, it was felt that as a mechanism, the Ontario Home Renewal Program (OHRP) will not tackle the basic problems of the handicapped. Example, it will not assist those who rent units or those who need assistance in home modification.

At the October 24, 1980 meeting of the Advisory Council the following motion was endorsed, and forwarded to the Honourable Margaret Birch:

- “Whereas while current recommended changes of the OHRP program are welcomed, this will not solve the home modification needs of many physically disabled individuals, and
- whereas other programs such as Vocational Rehabilitation Services have very strict eligibility criteria excluding other disabled individuals, and
- whereas even rigid enforcement of the recommended changes of the Building Code will not allow for structural needs of specific individuals,
- therefore be it recommended that the Province of Ontario undertake the establishment of a grant program which will enable those essential modifications required, because of a physical disability, to be made to the residence of the individual with said disability.”

*(Editor’s Note: There has been no firm response up to the end of this report year)*

**Special Needs of Physically Handicapped Children Committee**

Dr. William Orr, Chairman  
Nellie Lemon (retired)  
Heather Rankin (resigned)  
Janice Harris  
Beverly Gray

*Representative to Committee:*  
*Margaret McLeod*

**Children’s Treatment Centre - northeastern Ontario**

In June 1979 the Advisory Council endorsed a proposal, made by the Ontario Society for Crippled Children (OSCC), that a two-year pilot project for treatment of handicapped children be established in northeastern Ontario.

In November, 1979 Health Minister Dennis Timbrell announced that a new Centre in Timmins will provide treatment programs and services throughout northeastern Ontario. The Centre opened in April 1980, now provides out-reach therapy programs to approximately 140 children.

The Centre, which requires a bilingual speech pathologist, continues to be administered by a local Board made up of service club representatives, parents and interested professionals from the community. A limited pre-school program is provided by the Centre on a half-day basis.

**Prevention of injuries and disabilities**

At Council’s meeting in August, 1980 this Committee expressed concern over the growing habit of parents transporting infants on carriers attached to the rear of bicycles. It was felt that the infant in that position is completely without protection, and it is believed that this habit contributes to the number of children being injured and permanently disabled.

Through the Honourable Margaret Birch, this concern was conveyed to Health Minister Dennis Timbrell, who responded stating that Council’s concern about infant seats on bicycles can be incorporated into two proposed core programs in the public health field: one dealing with prenatal education and safety, where prevention can be introduced, and the other dealing with home accident prevention and parental education.

Council also wrote to the Honourable James Snow, Minister of Transportation and Communications, regarding this concern. In response, Mr. Snow stated

that Council's suggestion that information on the topic of bicycle carriers and safety should be made available to the public, is a good one and that he intends to instruct the public education staff of M.T.C. to explore the possibilities of including this topic in their public education materials.

### **Learning/Teaching Materials**

The Committee has felt for sometime now that handicapped individuals should be more widely represented in learning/teaching materials.

Through the Honourable Margaret Birch, this matter was presented to the Circular 14 Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Education in 1978, for their study and recommendations.

At the October 24, 1980 meeting of the Advisory Council a motion was endorsed reiterating this Committee's past recommendation that a Grade One Text be composed to complement those already in use, showing multi-racial children and some who might use wheelchairs and/or crutches. The Committee plans to follow-up on this issue and would like to see this recommendation take effect during the year 1981 (IYDP).

### **Other areas of concern to the Committee**

The following concerns were expressed by the Committee:

- that adequate records of the number of handicapped children in the province be maintained.
- re high risk pregnancies and the possibility of a child born with a physical disability.
- 'Minimal Standard Treatment' should be reviewed.
- the availability of professionals in remote areas.
- deaf children in the educational system.

The Committee will further discuss these concerns and recommendations will be made to Council.

## **Employment/Rehabilitation Committee**

William Murdock, Chairman

Myron Angus

Fernand Dame

Gerald Cronin (retired)

Dr. Albin Jousse

Clare Millar (retired)

Maurice Richard (retired)

### **Employment concerns**

At Council's meeting of February 1980 the Committee presented a report and recommendations pertaining to employment and rehabilitation of the physically handicapped. The recommendations relate to the areas summarized as follows:

1. Motivation and adequate education from early childhood.
2. Review of various kinds of services available to the handicapped.
3. More handicapped people be employed in decision making positions with respect to the handicapped.
4. Variation of services provided to the handicapped.
5. Training or retraining for handicapped persons.
6. Specialized training for employment.
7. Job assessment or employment training services for the handicapped.
8. Technical aids or special assistive devices for the handicapped.
9. Development of a comprehensive catalogue of assistive devices and specialized equipment for the handicapped.
10. Servicing of specialized equipment.
11. Matching the handicapped to employment opportunities.
12. Direction and co-ordination of research programs.

*(Editor's Note: A detailed copy of the report and recommendations is on file at the Council's office).*

In August 1980 the Council endorsed the following motion, (no. 2 of the recommendations above) presented by the Committee, as an important undertaking during IYDP (1981):

"that a review, by the appropriate ministries, of various kinds of services available to the handicapped, (i.e., specific training with respect to the special emotional and social needs) as well as knowledge of the realistic potential of the handicapped be provided to parents, doctors, teachers, nurses, social workers and other

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professionals who are involved in treating, advising, training and counselling handicapped persons.”

In 1981 the Committee plans to look at the whole area of employment through different types of workshop environment. This should lead to a more thorough knowledge of the kinds of problems that exist in the present workshop system.

It is felt that some data with respect to the employment of the handicapped should be developed, and the Committee will look at the kinds of employment opportunities that exist in the market place, and are potentially available to disabled persons.

#### *Future action by Committee*

- determine the implementation of its past recommendations
- continue to study the areas of employment and rehabilitation

## **Transportation Committee**

Marian Webb, Chairman

Joe Arvay

Lois Harte-Maxwell (resigned)

Jack Longman

Leonard Lotecki

#### *Representatives to Committee:*

Ed Blake

Tom Gregor (resigned)

Lyle Pringle

Margaret Young

## **Contingency plan for gasoline rationing**

At a November 21, 1980 meeting, Council endorsed a motion to write to the appropriate Federal Department expressing concern about the needs of handicapped persons, should gasoline rationing be introduced. Council sought confirmation that the needs of this consumer group would be given high priority.

Transport Canada responded to Council's concern on January 13, 1981, stating that the present allocation plan contains three priorities: health; economic stability; and maintenance of standards of living. Special provisions are to be made to grant vehicles operated by or for the handicapped, supplies of fuel equal to their actual requirements. Special consideration will also be given to the transportation of handicapped persons whether in their general trip-making or in travel for health care reasons.

The Advisory Council was assured that the needs of disabled people for a secure supply of fuel has been taken into account by the Federal Government.

## **Driver Training Seminar**

The Advisory Council co-sponsored, with the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre (OCCC) and the Canadian Paraplegic Association (CPA), a third Driver Training Seminar on May 12 and 13, 1980 at the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre and Glendon College in Toronto. The Transportation Committee was fully involved in the organization of the Seminar. Registrants at the Seminar included consumers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, driver instructors, representatives of insurance companies, agencies for the physically handicapped, as well as provincial government ministries.

Funds were received from the Office of the Secretary of State for the purpose of assisting handicapped consumers who attended the Seminar with part of their accommodation, registration and travel costs.



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Approval was received from the Secretary of State to use part of the funding to produce a video/print package, and implementation of a follow-up program is under consideration.

It is hoped to hold another Seminar in 1983 to coincide with the meeting of the Association for Driver Educators for the Disabled in Toronto.

### **Driver Examiner Seminars - Ministry of Transportation and Communications**

Following the success of the Driver Training Seminar held in May 1980, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications requested the Advisory Council to prepare and present educational seminars for M.T.C. driver examiners. Council's Transportation Committee Chairman Marian Webb undertook direct responsibility for the co-ordination of the seminars.

Two-day Seminars were held in Ottawa, Toronto and Kingston during the months of January and February 1981. The Council was aided immensely in this undertaking by the co-operation and involvement of management and staff of the rehabilitation facilities within the Royal Ottawa Hospital, Ontario Crippled Children's Centre and Kingston General Hospital.

The purpose of these Seminars was to familiarize the examiners with the abilities and limitations of handicapped drivers, with whom they may come in contact.

The Honourable James Snow, Minister of Transportation and Communications, in a letter, commended Ms. Webb for her co-ordination of the Seminars. Mr. Snow advised that a proposal has been tabled for the inclusion of this informative training program in their indoctrination course for all new examination staff. This proposal is being followed up by the Committee.

### **Research on financial assistance in the acquisition of motor vehicles by physically handicapped individuals**

The Committee commissioned the School of Business Administration, Queen's University, to carry out research into the amount of money that would be involved in setting up a revolving fund program to provide vehicles, either vans or cars, which could be adapted and provided to physically disabled people to enable them to increase their mobility.

The research project was completed and the Advisory Council received a detailed report from Queen's University, and a number of organizations and service clubs were invited to participate in the

revolving fund program. Among the responses received, two major oil companies expressed interest, and other companies and organizations have the request under consideration.

At the Council's meeting of December 1980 it was suggested that a national organization be approached to seek its participation in providing the support and administrative expertise for such a program, as the mandate of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped precludes the Council from administration of such programs.

On January 28, 1981 the Advisory Council wrote to the Variety Club of Ontario requesting their participation in this program. To-date there has been no reply.

The proposal will be forwarded to the Secretariat for Social Development, at the end of July 1981, following the Committee's progress review.

### **Physiatrist on the Ministry of Transportation and Communications' Advisory Committee**

Subsequent to the Driver Training Seminar held in May 1980, it was learned that the Medical Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (M.T.C.) does not include a physiatrist.

On July 8, 1980 the Advisory Council wrote to the Honourable Margaret Birch requesting that she convey to the Honourable James Snow, Minister of Transportation and Communications, Council's concern with the absence of a physiatrist in the make-up of M.T.C.'s Medical Advisory Committee.

(Physiatrists often have more ongoing contact with handicapped drivers than other specialists, and might therefore be able to give valuable assistance with regard to both their disability and driving potential.)

In a response dated August 28, 1980 Mrs. Birch advised that M.T.C.'s Medical Advisory Committee is presently composed of a neurologist, a psychiatrist and a specialist in internal medicine.

The Ministry felt that that composition of skills has proven to be appropriate, and from past experience, it would be more efficient to call for any additional specialists' reports when required, rather than attempt to staff their committee with additional specialists whose expertise would not be in frequent demand.

Council's Transportation Committee will further study this issue.

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## **Issuance of Class “L” licences**

On September 10, 1980 the Advisory Council wrote to the Honourable Margaret Birch expressing concern that operators of driver training programs for the disabled, within rehabilitation facilities, are unable to take trainees off private property for in-car assessment and training. When an individual or his/her physician notifies the Ministry of Transportation and Communications of an existing physical condition which might preclude them from safely operating a motor vehicle, the individual's licence is revoked, and they are not eligible for a Learner's (Class “L”) licence. This presented a problem in the retraining and assessment of these individuals.

The Council recommended that M.T.C.'s regulation be amended so that physically handicapped persons without a valid licence may be issued a Class “L” licence while operating a dual control vehicle in the presence of a qualified driver instructor, for training and assessment purposes.

In a response dated November 20, 1980, Mrs. Birch informed Council that the Honourable James Snow indicated that an individual who is suspended for medical reasons and who subsequently enters a rehabilitation program, which includes in-car driver training, could submit new medical evidence to the Registrar and request a review of his/her case. If the evidence supports the successful participation in a program of this type, the Registrar may lift the individual's suspension status. This does not grant a driver's licence but would permit application for a Class “L” licence. The individual could then, once licenced, participate in a rehabilitation program which includes in-car instruction on public roads. Mr. Snow further advised that, should there be specific cases where these provisions are not applicable, the Ministry would be willing to take a more detailed look at the Council's recommendation.

The Transportation Committee will monitor this issue.

## **Research on wheelchair tie-down systems**

Professor H. Wevers of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Queen's University in Kingston was provided by this Committee with pertinent information to assist in designing a research project for an improved tie-down system for wheelchairs in vans, and a driver restraint system for cars and vans.

Professor Wever's proposal and request for a grant to carry out the research were endorsed by the Advisory Council and submitted to the Ministry of Transportation and Communications for approval.

The grant was approved, and the project has been developed to the point of readiness for 'sled testing' at the National Research Centre in Ottawa. Progress reports of this project were provided to the Committee on a regular basis.

The Committee will continue to monitor the progress of this research project.

## **Sales tax rebate on motor vehicles**

The Advisory Council wrote to the Honourable Lorne Maeck, Minister of Revenue, recommending that the sales tax rebate legislation, regarding the purchase of motor vehicles for use by the physically handicapped, be further amended to include those persons at present in need of an automobile for personal use, but with no special adaptation required. The Council also recommended that the Ministry of Revenue could ask for a written statement from purchasers of vehicles, describing their disability, and if this did not prove sufficient they could ask the purchasers to provide a letter from their attending physician, verifying the person's disability.

In July 1980, a letter was received from Mr. Maeck stating that the issue was under examination by officials in the Retail Sales Tax Branch, and that the Ministry will contact the Council when their report is completed.

Meetings were held with Mr. Maeck and representatives of his Ministry, to further discuss this issue.

On March 17, 1981 the Council was advised by the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Revenue, that effective March 1, 1981 the conditions for the rebate have been modified so that a greater number of physically handicapped persons will derive benefit from the rebate program. The Deputy Minister thanked the Council for its assistance and advice.

## **Rural transportation needs**

Rural transportation for the physically handicapped continues to be a matter of concern and importance for this Committee.

In February 1980, the Advisory Council wrote to the Honourable Margaret Birch and presented her with a brief from the Barrie & District Association for the Physically Disabled, expressing concerns relating to the transportation needs of the physically handicapped in rural areas.

In response, Mrs. Birch informed the Council that the matter was forwarded to the Honourable Keith Norton, and the Honourable James Snow for their review and comments. Subsequent letters relating to this issue were written to Mrs. Birch in July and October 1980.



In a reply dated December 22, 1980 Mrs. Birch stated that the Honourable Keith Norton and the Honourable James Snow have reviewed the submissions from: the Barrie District Association; the Bruce/Grey Study - the profile of transportation disadvantaged in a rural area in Southwestern Ontario; the Mobility Club Concept, and had the following comments:

“from the onset of the Transport Canada work in southwestern Ontario, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications has had reservations concerning the numbers of transportation disadvantaged in rural areas and the feasibility of developing the Mobility Club Concept. In M.T.C.’s estimation, the transportation disadvantaged were over represented in the Transport Canada study. Relating transportation disadvantaged to primary access and ownership of an automobile does not address either the desire or need for access.”

Council was informed that the Office of the Provincial Co-ordinator for Rehabilitation Services will be conducting a research for the development of a paper early in 1981, concerning transportation, and at that time the issue of rural transportation will be further investigated.

The Committee plans to stay in touch with this study as it progresses.

### **Accessible train travel**

The Advisory Council has been concerned for sometime with the inaccessibility of Canada’s railway systems, and in 1978 recommended that the systems be made accessible to accommodate physically handicapped passengers. The Council held meetings with representatives involved in the research and design of a train access system, and provided input to the designing of the cars. The Council also recommended that an individual choosing to ride in his own wheelchair - where he might be more comfortable and safe - should be able to do so.

At Council’s meeting on June 25, 1980, a representative of Via Rail Canada Inc. addressed the Council regarding Via Rail’s recently announced plans which will enable the handicapped to conveniently use the system.

Council was informed that Via will have mechanical aids (station based lift and/or a system built within the car) to help the handicapped board the train. There will be at least one washroom per train to accommodate wheelchair users. Wheelchair passengers will be lifted on board all “full service” trains and at the following major stations: Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, London, Moncton, Montreal,

Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver, Windsor and Winnipeg. Via plans to develop a training program for its employees, to better enable them to assist disabled passengers.

Margaret Young, Driver Education Co-ordinator of the Ontario Crippled Children’s Centre, and a member of this committee, was involved in conducting a VIA staff training program in 1980. She travelled to various railway stations across the country to sensitize and acquaint the railway personnel with the needs of handicapped persons.

The Advisory Council was pleased to learn of Via’s program which will also enable that a traveller in a wheelchair has the option of remaining in his/her own chair or transferring to a passenger seat.

### **Accessibility of rail transportation systems**

In January, 1980 a Provincial Government Task Force was established, under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Margaret Scrivener, M.P.P., to develop a provincial perspective on the future of rail transportation in the province of Ontario.

The Advisory Council wrote to the Task Force reiterating its position that air and rail transportation, and the terminals and facilities which support such transportation, be accessible to the physically handicapped.

In January, 1981 the Task Force produced its final report and endorsed accessibility of existing and new commuter rail services. It also recommended training programs for railway personnel, regarding the needs of the disabled, and endorsed VIA Rail’s commitments to accessibility.

This Committee has asked to be kept informed of progress in this area.

### **Parking privileges for the handicapped**

Since the introduction of Bill 195 - An Act to amend the Municipal Act - on December 15, 1979, a number of municipalities have enacted, through by-laws, special parking privileges for physically handicapped drivers. Other municipalities have the matter under study.

The positive action by some municipalities, namely: Metropolitan Toronto and Windsor, is viewed as being a commendable approach, which will prove to be useful to handicapped drivers, and at the same time, would not create any inconvenience to other drivers or financial loss to the municipalities.

On June 17, 1980, Bill 130 - An Act to provide Parking Facilities for Physically Handicapped Persons, received its first reading in the Legislature.



The Bill provides that at least 1 per cent of all parking spaces in parking lots containing more than twenty-five parking spaces, to which the public has access, will be designated for the use of vehicles operated by physically handicapped persons and vehicles conveying physically handicapped persons.

The Transportation Committee is scheduled to meet with Mr. Douglas Kennedy, M.P.P. Mississauga South, who introduced Bill 130, to further discuss this issue.

## Public Awareness/Accessibility Committee

William Hatt, Chairman  
Joseph West, Vice-Chairman  
Athol Layton (Past Chairman)  
Joseph Arvay  
Jim Gerrond  
William Watson

*Representative to Committee:*

Gillian Kearney

### Awareness program in schools

At the June 26, 1980 Council meeting, this Committee expressed the need of an awareness program to educate children of the capabilities of the handicapped. Discussion ensued, and it was suggested that such a program be incorporated into the regular curriculum by the Ministry of Education. The following motion was unanimously endorsed, and forwarded to the Honourable Margaret Birch:

“That a public awareness program be initiated within the school system, to commence early in the year 1981, and that suitable personable handicapped individuals in conjunction with voluntary agencies, visit the schools to demonstrate their abilities. Suitable films could also be used to support the program”.

In a response, the Honourable Margaret Birch stated that the Minister of Education has indicated her support of a program that would sensitize students and others to the differences and similarities of disabled individuals, and that the Ministry of Education will inform Chairmen and officials employed by School Boards, regarding such a program.

The Advisory Council is pleased to note that the Minister of Education has taken steps to improve public awareness within the school systems.

It was decided that the Advisory Council, together with the Office of the Co-ordinator for IYDP, the

Co-ordinator for Rehabilitation Services, and the Ministry of Education, will forward letters and kits with pertinent information, along with the names of resource persons in the area, to the various boards.

### Accessibility of public buildings

At the June 26, 1980 meeting of the Advisory Council, discussion was held concerning the inaccessibility of many existing buildings, and the need for an incentive program to encourage owners to make the necessary modifications to their facilities. A motion was endorsed stating that “Whereas accessibility will open up many opportunities in existing buildings intended for the use of the public, the government should introduce an accelerated tax incentive program for owners of existing buildings, to encourage them to make their facilities accessible to the physically handicapped.”

The Honourable Margaret Birch in a response dated July 31, 1980 stated that Council’s concern was forwarded to the Ministers of Revenue, Consumer and Commercial Relations, and the Treasurer of Ontario for comments.

### Accessibility of provincial parks

In 1979 the Ministry of Natural Resources invited the Advisory Council’s comments on a draft design guide for future development of park sites.

At the Council’s meeting of August 21, 1980 a motion was endorsed requesting the Honourable Margaret Birch to write to the Minister of Natural Resources expediting the publication of an accessibility design guide for future construction of provincial parks and renovations to existing parks. Council also urged the Minister to make all provincial parks accessible for use by handicapped persons.

Mrs. Birch informed the Council on November 20, 1980 that the design guide has been completed in draft form, and that it will be incorporated into the Park Facilities Development Standards. As well, Council was assured that accessibility will be included in the renovation of existing park facilities, and in the development of new ones.

On November 10, 1980, the Provincial Parks Council invited representation from the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped to a Public Meeting to discuss policies concerning the planning, development, operation and other matters related to Ontario Provincial Parks. In responding to the invitation, Council reiterated its position regarding the design guide, and accessibility of provincial parks. The Advisory Council also

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expressed willingness to meet with representatives of the Parks Council whenever specific details of the issue are being considered.

### **Accessibility of cultural and recreational facilities**

At Council's meeting in June 1979, concerns were expressed regarding the funding freeze which the Ministry of Culture and Recreation had put on adaptation of buildings. Subsequent to discussion, a motion was endorsed by Council and forwarded to the Minister of Culture and Recreation requesting that the Ministry reconsider the freeze on Capital Grants Program. In a response from the Ministry, of April 18, 1980, Council was assured that the Capital Grants Program was a temporary one.

In a News Release dated April 1, 1981, the Ministry of Culture and Recreation announced the 1981-82 Wintario Grants Program, which in part stated the resumption of the Wintario Capital Grants program, which supports the renovation and construction of cultural and recreational facilities in Ontario.

### **Caravan**

As reported in the Council's Fifth Annual Report, this Committee proposed the idea of a Caravan during 1981 - IYDP, to move around the urban and rural areas of the province providing information to the physically handicapped on programmes and services available, and making the public aware of the concerns and capabilities of handicapped persons.

This proposal was discussed with the Ontario Youth Secretariat, (OYS), in the hope that it would be undertaken through the Experience '81 Program, and it was suggested that disabled students might be employed to carry out this project.

In a News Release dated January 1981, the Minister of Culture and Recreation announced major initiatives for the disabled. The announcement in part stated, "two vans containing resource material will travel the province attending local IYDP activities and events. Consultants staffing the vans will assist self-help groups of disabled people to get involved in community issues".

The Provincial Co-ordinator for the International Year of Disabled Persons informed the Advisory Council that a travelling display (Caravan) will be opened on May 25, 1981. The display undertaken by the Office of the Co-ordinator for IYDP, will include pictorial and recorded statements of ten disabled people about their handicaps. Four individuals with various handicaps were hired to work on this display.

### **Public awareness information pamphlet**

At the Council's meeting of August 21, 1980 this committee suggested that a pamphlet be prepared to promote public awareness in the general community. The pamphlet will stress the Council's role in promoting the needs and aspirations of the physically handicapped. The concept of the pamphlet will focus on "A Day in the Life of Physically Handicapped Individuals." It will be developed from past and present perspectives and will incorporate a future outlook for the physically handicapped, with the Council's policies and objectives held in the forefront. The pamphlet will in large-part be an extrapolation of information gathered from research and interviews carried out by a summer student working in the Council's office, through the Experience '81 Program. Copies of this publication will be available from the Council's office sometime in September, 1981.



# Other areas of Council's involvement

## April 1980 - March 1981

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### Public Forum - Ottawa

The Advisory Council held its sixth Public Forum on October 23, 1980 in the Ottawa City Hall. Previous Forums were held in Kingston, Windsor, Metropolitan Toronto, Sudbury and Cambridge.

The Forum was divided into two sessions. The first commenced at 2:00 p.m. and ran to 5:00, and the evening session started at 7:00 p.m. and concluded at 9:20 p.m. The Forum was attended by a total of approximately 185 persons.

Concerns were expressed on such issues as transportation, employment, accommodation and support services, public awareness and accessibility. Council members gained valuable information which will help formulate recommendations to the Ontario Government on policies and programmes for the handicapped.

### Hamilton visit

The Council held an informal meeting at the Royal Connaught Hotel on Thursday, November 20, 1980. Members of the Council's Executive Committee, were available to discuss issues of importance to the life style of the physically handicapped in the Hamilton and Niagara Peninsula areas. Relevant advice was provided to handicapped individuals and representatives of organizations working with the handicapped, on a more individual basis.

### Rights - Bill 209

On November 25, 1980, Bill 209 - 'An Act to revise and extend Protection of Human Rights in Ontario', received its first reading. The Bill - a revision of the Ontario Human Rights Code - included principal changes as follow:

1. The circumstances under which discrimination is prohibited are extended to include:
  - (a) discrimination in the equal enjoyment of goods, services and facilities generally and not limited to those available in a place to which the public is customarily admitted;
  - (b) discrimination in contracts;
  - (c) discrimination because of a person's association with others;
  - (d) discrimination on a ground that has the result of discrimination because of a prohibited ground;
  - (e) harassment of an occupant of accommodation by the landlord or another occupant because of a prohibited ground;
  - (f) harassment of an employee by the

- employer or another employee because of a prohibited ground of discrimination;
- (g) sexual solicitation, reprisal or threat of reprisal by a person in a position of authority.
2. The prohibited grounds of discrimination are extended to include:
  - (a) handicap;
  - (b) marital status with certain exceptions in the case of accommodation;
  - (c) record of offences in the case of employment;
  - (d) age between 18 and 65 years;
  - (e) family with certain exceptions in the case of accommodation.
  - (f) receipt of public assistance in the case of accommodation.
3. Sanctions against discrimination in employment by contractors under Government contracts.
4. Protection in employment is extended to domestic workers.
5. Landlords and employers may be made responsible to prevent harassment of tenants and employees.
6. The Bill would bind the Crown and have primacy over other legislation.
7. The Commission is empowered to recommend the introduction and implementation of affirmative action programs.
8. A Race Relations Division is established with its own Commissioner.
9. Boards of inquiry are required to issue decisions within 30 days of the conclusion of their hearings.
10. Boards of inquiry are empowered to make orders respecting access for the handicapped after a finding of discrimination has been made.
11. Boards of inquiry are empowered to award damages for mental anguish.

At the December 12, 1980 meeting of the Advisory Council, a representative of the Ministry of Labour spoke on this matter. Discussion ensued, and Council members expressed concerns with certain sections of the Bill, and terms used therein, e.g. 'bona-fide' used with regard to restrictions for insurance contracts.

A motion was endorsed by Council that an Ad Hoc Committee be formed to study Bill 209 with a view of providing comments and recommendations to the Secretariat for Social Development. The Ad Hoc Committee was comprised of members of the Council's Executive Committee, and included Joseph Arvay.



In January 1981, the Council responded to a notice that the Standing Committee on Social Development will meet to consider Bill 209, with a request to appear before the Committee to speak to our concerns. Joseph Arvay was selected to speak on behalf of the Council. However, as a result of the announcement of the March 19, 1981 provincial election, the Legislative Assembly and its Committees were dissolved. Council was assured by the Standing Committee that our request for an oral presentation will be retained by the Office of the Clerk of the House for consideration by any committee studying such human rights legislation in the near future.

## **Income maintenance**

The Advisory Council has been concerned for sometime with the possible loss of income to a physically handicapped individual, who is classified by the Ministry of Community and Social Services as 'permanently unemployable' as opposed to 'permanently disabled'.

The composition of Form 4, Medical Report and Certificate in Respect of Impairment," which is completed by a physician and then reviewed by the Ministry's Medical Advisory Board to determine the applicant's qualification for the Gains - D or Family Benefit Allowance, makes it difficult to accurately assess an individual.

In February 1979, the Advisory Council recommended changes to Form 4, that might improve the assessment process. In response, the Honourable Keith Norton stated that the involvement of the Advisory Council was timely as his Ministry was in the process of determining eligibility in respect to permanently unemployable and disabled persons, along with a review of the structure of their Medical Advisory Board.

Subsequent to a follow-up on this issue in November 1980, the Advisory Council was informed that Phase 2 of the Ministry of Community and Social Services' decentralization program will not be underway until 1981, at which time substantive program and administrative changes will occur, i.e. Form 4, roles and composition of the Medical Advisory Board. Assurance was given by the Ministry of Community and Social Services that new forms, once designed, will be discussed with the Council prior to implementation.

### *Future action by Council*

- Continue to press for changes to Form 4.

## **Telethons/Housing and Support Services**

At Council's Executive Committee meeting of May 22, 1980, a letter, challenging Council Chairman Jack Longman to make a clear cut press statement on Telethons and Housing and Support Services, was discussed.

In responding to the issue of housing, it was stated that past concern over housing being related to charitable dollars has brought some response from government, in that, a new funding mechanism has been offered to most of the group homes for the physically handicapped, which will enable them to function without the addition of charitable dollars.

Regarding the issue of Telethons, it was felt that the 'sympathy angle' used in the presentations of some Telethons, should be eliminated.

At the Council's meeting of June 26, 1980, a motion was endorsed stating that the Advisory Council does not feel steps should be taken to eliminate Telethons until some other means of raising money is found. In doing so, we might harmfully affect some worthwhile projects.

It was recommended that, rather than issuing a statement totally opposing Telethons - because many are serving needs not being met by government or agency programs - a larger portion of the monies generated by the Ontario Lottery Corporation be directed toward programs to assist the physically handicapped. This recommendation was forwarded to the Honourable Margaret Birch for transmittal to the Honourable Reuben Baetz, Minister of Culture and Recreation, with a request that due consideration be given to this matter.

Mrs. Birch conveyed the Council's concerns to her colleagues, whose ministries receive Provincial Lottery Funds.

## **Special education**

Until her resignation, Council member Heather Rankin represented our Council on the Advisory Council on Special Education of the Ministry of Education. In March 1981 Janice Harris was appointed as the Council's representative in this role. Mrs. Harris will attend the meetings of the Special Education Advisory Council, and will keep Council members aware of pertinent issues.

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## Part 5, Ontario Building Code

In August 1978 the Advisory Council presented to the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, proposals to amend Part 5 of the Ontario Building Code.

A Study Group was established, comprising representatives of the Building Code Branch of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, the Advisory Council, provincial government ministries, and organizations (architects, developers, and builders), most likely to be affected by the requirements of Part 5.

In January 1980, the Council received a copy of the Building Code Branch's recommended amendments to Part 5, and found that they were considerably weaker than those in the Council's original report. As a result, meetings were held with representatives of the Advisory Council and the Building Code Branch of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, and the following agreements were reached:

- that the Building Code Branch of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations would seek the acceptance of developers and manufacturers that a minimum door width of 30" be used in all future residential type buildings.
- that the Branch would undertake the establishment of a further Study Group to examine outstanding and unresolved issues, and that such a group be comprised of representatives of various organizations for the handicapped, as well as users of the Code.
- that the Branch would undertake responsibility for the production of the 'Design Guide' as proposed in the amendments.

It is understood that the matter is presently before the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, and the amendments to Part 5 will soon be introduced.

## Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped (ARCH)

At the Advisory Council's meeting of April 18, 1980 representatives of the Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped spoke about the role and aims of the Centre.

It was stated that ARCH - the first and only legal clinic in Canada with a mandate to provide direct

legal services for handicapped citizens who do not have access to regular legal services - has approximately 60 consumer groups and voluntary agencies participating on its Board.

The Centre, officially opened on April 21, 1980, is located in a building which is totally accessible and has adaptations to accommodate handicapped clients. Their address is 40 Orchard View Boulevard, Suite 255, Toronto, Ontario M4R 1B9.

## Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada (MDAC)

At Council's meeting of April 18, 1980 representatives of the Muscular Dystrophy Association spoke to a brief they had submitted to the Advisory Council.

The principal purpose of the Association is finding a cure for muscular dystrophy through research. As well, the Association spends a great deal of its resources to ensure a reasonable lifestyle by providing medical equipment to those with muscular disorders.

At that time almost 8,000 persons were registered with the Association, the majority of those were children who are affected with the Duchenne variety. Because of the nature and progression of the disorder, much medical and support equipment is needed for them.

Concern was expressed regarding government services, particularly the Ontario Health Insurance Plan. It was felt that medical equipment (assistive devices) should be covered by OHIP.

MDAC does not impose a means test in order to provide equipment and bears part of the cost for services provided by other agencies such as the Ontario Society for Crippled Children's camping program and the Ontario March of Dimes' camping program.

One area of great concern to the Association is transportation. Because of MDAC's dissatisfaction with the service offered by the Metro parallel transit system, they found it necessary to enter into a contract with a private operator to transport patients to clinics, etc.

Other areas of concern expressed were: parking permits for family members of handicapped children; the lack of parent relief on a temporary basis; and the provision of financial assistance to help families purchase a van to transport physically handicapped members of the family.

(Editor's Note: Copy of MDAC's brief is on file at the Council's office)



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## **Bell Canada's introduction of Balanced Armature Receiver (B.A.R.)**

In February 1980, representatives of Bell Canada were invited to speak to Council regarding the problems with their introduction of a new type of telephone receiver called B.A.R. The receiver differs in one respect from the previous model – it does not give off a magnetic field strong enough to be picked up by inductive coils which have been incorporated into most hearing aids to provide easy access to the telephone.

The Advisory Council was informed that Bell would conduct research in an attempt to solve the telecommunications problems of the hearing impaired, and if a solution could not be found by the end of 1980, they would revert to the magnetic field receiver.

In a letter dated November 13, 1980 Bell advised the Advisory Council that they had been unsuccessful with their research in developing a receiver which would be compatible with hearing aids, and as per their commitment to Council, would revert to the former system.

At the December 1980, meeting of the Advisory Council, it was pointed out that although Bell Canada had expressed its willingness to revert to a system compatible with hearing aids and T.T.Ys, other manufacturers have not indicated willingness to do likewise. As a result, the following motion was endorsed:

“that the Advisory Council write to the Honourable Margaret Birch urging her to write to C.R.T.C. requesting them to enact a requirement that all telephones sold in Canada be compatible with hearing aids and T.T.Ys to assure universal accessibility of communications systems”.

## **Communications for the disabled**

At the March 6, 1981 meeting of the Advisory Council, representatives of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) and the Canadian Hearing Society (CHS), spoke to Council regarding communications for the disabled.

The C.H.S.'s representative demonstrated the use of sign language and spoke of the communication problems encountered by the deaf. It was stated that most deaf adults use some form of manual communication. The sign language used by the deaf differs from the English language. Some deaf persons use their residual hearing and lip reading, but often understanding is limited in this method of communication. The difficulties of two-way communication were pointed out. The hearing person needs to be aware of how best to facilitate communication with a deaf person. As an example, a hearing person could accept responsibility to facilitate communication, by arranging for an interpreter.

The representative of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Deaf/Blind Services, told Council that there are no accurate statistics of the number of deaf/blind persons in Canada. Currently there are some intervenor services in Ontario for the deaf/blind. It was stated that there are various communication modes, e.g.: tactual language; manual alphabet; braille; vibratory morse code; printing of block letters on the palm; close circuit T.V. reader, which enlarges print; and tella touch.

It should be noted that many who are deaf/blind can see well enough to be able to read large print. A small minority can hear well enough if they are in a silent room, or listening to a slow speaker.

*(Editor's Note: The presentations afforded the Advisory Council a greater understanding of the problems faced by the deaf/blind and the deaf.)*



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## **Ad Hoc Committee on Income Tax Laws as they Pertain to the Physically Handicapped**

Joseph Arvay, Chairman  
Toby Brooks  
Bill Hatt  
John Yorke (retired)

*Representative to Committee:*

Jim Nicol

An Ad Hoc Committee under the Chairmanship of Joseph Arvay was formed in August 1979 to review present income tax laws and the effect they might have on the physically handicapped.

In March 1980, the Committee presented a report to Council containing recommendations dealing with:

- Medical expenses.
- Disability - related expenses.
- Renovations to buildings.
- Basic disability deduction.

The Committee's report and recommendations were forwarded to the Honourable Margaret Birch requesting that she present it to her colleagues, the

Honourable Thomas Wells, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and the Honourable Frank Miller, Treasurer of Ontario, for their consideration and comments.

In November 1980 Mrs. Birch wrote to Council stating that the recommendations are related to federal and provincial income tax laws and the interests of the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs are on the broader jurisdiction issues of intergovernmental finance. Comments by the Ministry of Treasury and Economics (M.T.E.) were provided to Council.

Committee Chairman Joseph Arvay considered the response from the M.T.E. to be 'negative', and felt that their objections were not clearly defined. At the Council's December 12, 1980 meeting, Mr. Arvay stated that the Committee had expected that any criticism of the report would have been more constructive.

The Committee, after further study, will prepare a suitable response in this regard.

*(Editor's Note: The detailed report of the Committee's recommendations is on file at the Council's office.)*

# Comité temporaire sur les lois touchant l'impôt sur le revenu et les handicapés physiques

Joseph Arway, président

Toby Brooks

Bill Hatt

John Yorke (retraité)

Délégué auprès du comité:

Jim Nicol

Dans une lettre adressée au Conseil en novembre 1980, Madame Birch a fait remarquer que les recommandations concernent les lois fédérales et provinciales sur l'impôt tandis que le mandat du ministère des Affaires intergouvernementales touche plutôt les aspects plus vastes des compétences dans le domaine des finances intergouvernementales. Les commentaires du ministre du Trésor et de l'Economie ont été adressés au Conseil.

Le président du comité, Monsieur Joseph Arway, a estimé que la réponse du MTE était "négative" et que ses objections demeuraient vagues. A la réunion que tint le Conseil le 12 décembre 1980, Monsieur Arway a déclaré qu'il s'attendait à ce que la critique du rapport soit plus constructive.

Après une étude plus approfondie, le comité préparera une réponse appropriée.

(N.D.L.R.: Le Bureau du Conseil conserve le document faisant état des recommandations du comité).

Un comité temporaire, présidé par Joseph Arway, a été constitué en août 1979 pour examiner les incidences des lois actuelles de l'impôt sur le revenu sur les handicapés physiques.

En mars 1980, le comité présentait au Conseil son rapport. Les recommandations portaient sur les domaines suivants:

- Frais médicaux
- Dépenses relatives à l'invalidité
- Rénovation de bâtiments
- Déduction de base pour invalidité

Le rapport et les recommandations du comité furent adressés à l'honorable Margaret Birch la priant de les présenter à ses collègues, les honorables Thomas Wells, ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales, et Frank Miller, Trésorier de l'Ontario, pour qu'ils en prennent connaissance et fassent part de leurs commentaires.

## La communication avec les handicapés

À la réunion du Conseil tenue le 6 mars 1981, des représentants de l'Institut national canadien pour les aveugles (CNIB) et de la Société canadienne de l'ouïe (CHS) vinrent exposer certaines difficultés de communication que rencontrent les handicapés. Le représentant de la CHS fit une démonstration de langage par signes et rappela les problèmes de communication dont souffrent les sourds. Il précisa que la plupart des adultes sourds font usage d'une forme quelconque de communication manuelle. Le langage par signes des sourds diffère de la langue anglaise. Certains sourds utilisent un résidu d'audition ou lisent sur les lèvres, mais cela limite souvent le champ de compréhension. Il est souvent difficile de converser avec ces personnes. Il est utile que les entendants sachent faciliter la communication avec elles. Ainsi, un entendant qui s'assure les services d'un interprète facilite la communication avec son interlocuteur sourd.

Le représentant de l'Institut national canadien pour les aveugles, services aux sourds-aveugles, déclara au Conseil qu'on ne connaît pas exactement le nombre de sourds-aveugles au Canada. Il y a actuellement, en Ontario, certains services d'interprétation pour les sourds-aveugles. L'intervenant indiqua plusieurs modes de communication: le langage tactile, l'alphabet manuel, le braille, le code Morse vibratoire, le tracé de lettres moulées sur la paume de la main, le lecteur vidéo en circuit fermé qui agrandit les caractères imprimés et le "tella-touch".

Il faut noter que plusieurs sourds-aveugles voient tout de même suffisamment pour lire de gros caractères. Par ailleurs, quelques-uns parviennent à entendre s'ils sont dans une pièce silencieuse ou si leur interlocuteur parle lentement.

(N.D.L.R.: Cette présentation a permis au Conseil consultatif de mieux comprendre les problèmes des sourds-aveugles et des sourds).

La question du transport préoccupe beaucoup l'Association. Insatisfaite du service qu'offre le système métropolitain de transport parallèle, elle a dû passer un contrat avec une entreprise privée pour faire transporter les patients aux cliniques, etc.

Parmi les autres problèmes mentionnés, notons les permis de stationnement pour les membres des familles des enfants handicapés; la nécessité de soulager les parents à l'occasion et l'aide financière qu'il faudrait accorder aux familles des handicapés pour leur permettre d'acheter une fourgonnette pour transporter ceux d'entre eux qui sont handicapés.

(N.D.L.R.: Le Bureau du Conseil consultatif conserve un exemplaire du mémoire).

## Lancement par Bell Canada d'un récepteur à palette équilibrée

En février 1980, le Conseil a invité des représentants de Bell Canada à discuter du problème engendré par l'introduction d'un nouveau type de récepteur téléphonique appelé "récepteur à palette équilibrée" (B.A.R.). Cet appareil diffère du précédent en ce que le champ magnétique produit n'est pas assez fort pour être capté par les bobines d'induction qui ont été intégrées à la plupart des appareils de prothèse auditive pour faciliter l'accès au service téléphonique.

Bell Canada a informé le Conseil qu'elle poursuivait ses recherches sur les moyens de résoudre les problèmes des malentendants et que, si elle ne pouvait trouver de solution avant la fin de 1980, elle reviendrait au champ magnétique.

Dans une lettre datée du 13 novembre 1980, Bell Canada a averti le Conseil qu'elle n'avait pas réussi à mettre au point un nouveau récepteur qui convienne aux prothèses auditives. La société se disait donc disposée à revenir aux récepteurs classiques comme elle l'avait promis au Conseil.

À la réunion du Conseil tenue en décembre 1980, on a précisé que les autres fabricants d'appareils téléphoniques ne s'étaient pas engagés, comme Bell Canada, à revenir à un système qui soit compatible avec les prothèses auditives. En conséquence, le Conseil a appuyé la proposition suivante:

"Que le Conseil consultatif prie l'honorable Margaret Birch d'écrire au CRTC pour lui demander d'exiger que tous les combinés vendus au Canada soient compatibles avec les prothèses auditives pour assurer un accès universel aux systèmes de communication".



## Education de l'enfance en difficulté

Jusqu'à ce qu'elle démissionne du Conseil, Madame Heather Rankin a représenté celui-ci au Conseil consultatif sur l'éducation de l'enfance en difficulté du ministère de l'Éducation. Pour lui succéder, Madame Janice Harris a été nommée déléguée du Conseil en mars 1981. Madame Harris assistera aux réunions du Conseil consultatif sur l'éducation de l'enfance en difficulté et tiendra les membres du Conseil au courant des questions qui l'intéressent.

## Section 5 du Code du bâtiment de l'Ontario

En août 1978, le Conseil consultatif présentait, au ministère de la Consommation et du Commerce, une proposition pour amender la section 5 du Code du bâtiment de l'Ontario.

Le ministère a formé un groupe d'étude réunissant des représentants de sa Direction du code du bâtiment, du Conseil consultatif, d'autres ministères provinciaux ainsi que d'organisations (architectes, entrepreneurs et constructeurs) susceptibles d'être touchées par les exigences de la section 5.

En janvier 1980, le Conseil a reçu un exemplaire des modifications à la section 5 que la Direction du code du bâtiment se proposait d'apporter. Le Conseil a alors constaté que ces modifications n'étaient qu'un pâle reflet de celles qu'il avait recommandées dans son rapport original. En conséquence, le Conseil a rencontré les représentants de la Direction du code du bâtiment du ministère de la Consommation et du Commerce et les deux parties ont convenu de ce qui suit:

- La Direction du code du bâtiment du ministère de la Consommation et du Commerce va s'efforcer de faire accepter aux entrepreneurs et aux fabricants d'aménager des portes d'au moins 30 po de largeur dans toutes les nouvelles constructions domiciliaires.
- La Direction réunira un nouveau groupe d'étude pour examiner les questions en suspens et non résolues et ce groupe comprendra des représentants de divers organismes pour les handicapés aussi bien que des utilisateurs du Code.

- La Direction se chargera de produire le "Guide conceptuel" proposé dans les amendements.

Il semble que le dossier soit présentement entre les mains du ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce et qu'on apportera bientôt les amendements voulus à la section 5.

## Centre de consultations juridiques pour les personnes handicapées

À la réunion du Conseil du 18 avril 1980, des représentants du centre de consultations juridiques pour les personnes handicapées ont expliqué le rôle et les objectifs de leur organisation.

Ce Centre – le premier au Canada à offrir une assistance juridique directement aux handicapés qui ne peuvent s'offrir les services juridiques ordinaires – réunit dans son conseil quelque 60 groupes de consommateurs et agences bénévoles.

Le Centre, officiellement créé le 21 avril 1980, est situé dans un édifice parfaitement accessible aux handicapés et doté de toutes les installations qui leur conviennent. Il se trouve au 40, boulevard Orchard View, Bureau 255, Toronto (Ontario), M4R 1B9.

## Association canadienne contre la dystrophie musculaire

À la réunion du Conseil tenue le 18 avril 1980, des représentants de l'Association canadienne contre la dystrophie musculaire sont venus commenter un mémoire que l'Association avait soumis au Conseil consultatif.

Le but principal de l'Association est de trouver un remède à la dystrophie musculaire en poursuivant la recherche dans ce domaine. En outre, l'organisme consacre une grande partie de ses ressources à assurer un mode de vie convenable aux personnes dystrophiques en leur fournissant des appareils orthopédiques.

À ce moment-là, 8,000 personnes étaient inscrites à l'Association, la majorité sont des enfants atteints de la variété de dystrophie dite "Duchenne". À cause de la nature et de la progression de la maladie, les personnes ont besoin d'un important arsenal d'appareils médicaux et orthopédiques.

Les représentants de l'Association se sont dits préoccupés au sujet des services gouvernementaux et, plus particulièrement, du Régime d'assurance-santé de l'Ontario. Ils étaient d'avis que l'OHIP devrait couvrir les appareils orthopédiques et autres.

L'Association n'impose pas aux malades de faire la preuve qu'ils sont démunis pour leur fournir des appareils. En outre elle couvre une partie des frais qu'entraînent les services offerts par d'autres agences, tels que le programme de camping de la société pour les enfants infirmes de l'Ontario de même que celui de la Marche des millions.

Le Conseil a appuyé une résolution visant à former un comité spécial pour étudier le projet de loi 209, dans le but de présenter des commentaires et recommandations au Secrétariat aux Affaires sociales. Le comité a été formé des membres du comité administratif du Conseil à qui s'est ajoutée Joseph Arway.

En janvier 1981, le Conseil a reçu un avis que le Comité permanent des Affaires sociales siègerait pour étudier le projet de loi 209 et qu'il convoquerait le Conseil à comparaître pour exposer son point de vue. Le Conseil désigna Joseph Arway comme porte-parole. Toutefois, à la suite du déclenchement des élections provinciales du 19 mars 1981, le Lieutenant Gouverneur a dissous l'Assemblée législative et ses comités. Le Comité permanent a cependant assuré le Conseil que sa demande de présentation orale serait retenue par le Bureau du greffier de l'Assemblée et que cette présentation serait soumise à tout comité qui serait saisi d'une législation semblable sur les droits de la personne.

## Maintien du revenu

Depuis un certain temps, le Conseil consultatif se préoccupe de la perte éventuelle du revenu des handicapés physiques que le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires classe dans la catégorie inaptes à l'emploi de façon permanente plutôt que handicapés permanents.

La composition de la formule 4 (rapport médical), qui est remplie par un médecin puis étudiée par le Conseil médical consultatif du ministère, pour déterminer si le demandeur est admissible au Régime de revenu annuel garanti ou aux prestations familiales, est telle qu'il est difficile d'évaluer convenablement la condition d'une personne. En février 1979, le Conseil consultatif recommandait d'apporter des changements à la formule n° 4 afin d'améliorer le processus d'évaluation. Dans sa réponse, l'honorable Keith Norton déclarait que l'intervention du Conseil consultatif était fort à propos puisque son ministère était en train de redéfinir les critères d'admissibilité en ce qui concerne les personnes inemployables ou invalides en permanence en même temps qu'il procédait à une révision structurelle Conseil médical consultatif.

Le Conseil consultatif ayant effectué un suivi de cette question en novembre 1980 fut informé par le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires que la phase 2 de son programme de décentralisation ne commencerait pas avant 1981. Elle s'accompagnerait alors de changements importants au programme ainsi qu'aux méthodes administratives, à la formule 4 et à la composition

du Comité consultatif médical, par exemple. Le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires a donné au Conseil l'assurance que lorsqu'il aura élaboré une nouvelle formule, il la soumettra au Conseil avant d'en prescrire l'emploi.

*Projet du Conseil*

- Continuer d'exercer des pressions pour faire modifier la formule 4.

## Téléthons et services de logement et de soutien

À la réunion du Comité exécutif du 22 mai 1980, Monsieur Jack Longman, président du Conseil, de faire une déclaration claire et ferme à la presse sur les téléthons et les services de logement et de soutien.

Concernant le logement, il est apparu que le malaise engendré par les contributions charitables avait provoqué une réaction de la part du gouvernement. En effet, un nouveau mécanisme de financement est maintenant offert à la plupart des foyers de groupe pour les handicapés, ce qui devrait leur permettre de fonctionner sans l'apport des contributions charitables.

En ce qui a trait aux téléthons, le Comité a jugé que certains de ces programmes font appel à la pitié du public et que cet aspect devrait être banni des ondes. À sa réunion du 26 juin 1980, le Conseil a appuyé une résolution indiquant que le Conseil consultatif considère inopportun d'éliminer les téléthons jusqu'à ce qu'on arrive à trouver d'autres moyens de financement. Si on le faisait, on pourrait nuire à certains projets très valables.

On a donc recommandé que, plutôt que d'émettre un communiqué condamnant les téléthons (puisque plusieurs de ces organisations remplissent une fonction que les programmes du gouvernement et des agences délaissent totalement), on accorde une part plus importante des revenus de la Société de loterie de l'Ontario à des programmes d'assistance aux handicapés physiques. Cette recommandation a été adressée à l'honorable Margaret Birch, priant celle-ci de la transmettre à l'honorable Reuben Baetz, ministre des Affaires culturelles et des Loisirs, pour qu'il la prenne en considération.

Madame Birch a fait part des préoccupations du Conseil à ceux de ses collègues dont les ministères reçoivent des fonds en provenance des loteries provinciales.



Débat public à Ottawa

Le Conseil consultatif a tenu son sixième débat public le 23 octobre 1980 à la mairie d'Ottawa. Les débats précédents avaient eu lieu à Kingston, Windsor, Toronto, Sudbury et Cambridge.

Le débat comportait deux séances. La première s'est déroulée de 14 h à 17 h et la seconde a débuté à 19 h pour se terminer à 21 h 20. Le débat a attiré quelque 185 personnes.

Les sujets discutés concernaient le transport, l'emploi, le logement et les services de soutien, la sensibilisation du public et l'accessibilité. Les membres du Conseil en ont tiré des renseignements précieux qui les aideront à formuler des recommandations au gouvernement de l'Ontario sur les politiques et les programmes qui touchent les handicapés.

Visite à Hamilton

Le Conseil a tenu une réunion non officielle à l'hôtel Royal Connaught le jeudi 20 novembre 1980. Les membres du comité exécutif du Conseil étaient disponibles pour discuter des problèmes touchant le mode de vie des handicapés physiques de Hamilton et de la péninsule de Niagara. Les handicapés et les représentants des organismes qui travaillent avec eux ont pu recevoir des conseils pertinents de façon plus personnelle.

Droits de la personne - Projet de loi n° 209

Le 25 novembre 1980, le projet de loi 209 était présenté en première lecture. Ce projet de loi intitulé "An Act to revise and extend Protection of Human Rights in Ontario" est une révision du Code des droits de la personne de l'Ontario et comprend les modifications majeures suivantes:

- 1. Les circonstances où la discrimination est interdite s'étendent désormais à:
  - (a) la discrimination dans la jouissance égale des biens, services et installations en général et non pas limitée à ceux qui sont disponibles dans un lieu auquel le public a ordinairement accès;
  - (b) la discrimination dans les contrats;
  - (c) la discrimination liée aux relations qu'une personne entretient avec d'autres individus;
  - (d) la discrimination qui aurait pour effet de causer une nouvelle discrimination interdite;
  - (e) le harcèlement de l'occupant d'un logement par le propriétaire ou un autre occupant pour cause de discrimination interdite;

- (f) le harcèlement d'un employé par son employeur ou un autre employé pour cause de discrimination interdite;
  - (g) la sollicitation sexuelle, les représailles ou la menace de représailles par une personne occupant un poste d'autorité.
  - 2. Les causes interdites de discrimination s'étendent désormais à:
    - (a) la condition d'handicapé;
    - (b) l'état matrimonial avec quelques exceptions en ce qui concerne le logement;
    - (c) un dossier délictuel en ce qui concerne l'embauche ou l'emploi;
    - (d) l'âge pour les personnes âgées de 18 à 65 ans;
    - (e) la famille avec quelques exceptions en ce qui concerne le logement;
    - (f) le fait d'être inscrit à l'aide sociale en ce qui concerne le logement.
  - 3. Des sanctions sont prévues pour toute discrimination dans l'emploi pratiquée par les entrepreneurs liés par des contrats gouvernementaux.
  - 4. La protection d'emploi s'étend désormais aux domestiques.
  - 5. Les propriétaires et les employeurs peuvent être chargés d'empêcher le harcèlement de leurs locataires et de leurs employés.
  - 6. Le projet de loi lierait la Couronne et aurait la priorité sur toutes les autres lois.
  - 7. La Commission a le pouvoir de recommander d'entreprendre et d'appliquer des programmes d'action positive.
  - 8. Une division des relations interraciales dirigée par un Commissaire est instituée.
  - 9. Des commissions d'enquête sont tenues de rendre leur décision dans les 30 jours qui suivent la fin des audiences.
  - 10. Les Commissions d'enquête ont le pouvoir d'ordonner en matière d'accès aux handicapés si elles constatent la discrimination.
  - 11. Les Commissions d'enquête ont le pouvoir d'accorder des dommages pour angoisse mentale.
- À la réunion du Conseil tenue le 12 décembre 1980, un représentant du ministère du Travail fit un exposé à ce sujet. Au cours de la discussion qui a suivi, les membres du Conseil ont exprimé des doutes sur certaines parties du projet de loi et sur certaines expressions qui s'y trouvent, e.g. "bona fide" s'appliquant aux contraintes des contrats d'assurance.



## Brochure informative pour sensibiliser le public

À la réunion que tint le Conseil le 21 août 1980, le Comité a suggéré de préparer une brochure pour sensibiliser le grand public. Cette brochure insistera sur le rôle du Conseil en matière de promotion des besoins et aspirations des handicapés physiques. La brochure aura pour thème "Une journée dans la vie des handicapés". On s'inspirera de la situation passée et présente, en dégagant une perspective pour l'avenir des handicapés et en faisant valoir au premier plan les politiques et les objectifs du Conseil. En grande partie, cette brochure développera l'information accumulée au cours de recherches et d'entrevues effectuées par un étudiant travaillant durant l'été, au bureau du Conseil, dans le cadre du programme "Expérience 81". On pourra se procurer des exemplaires de cette publication au bureau du Conseil en septembre 1981.

Accessibilité aux édifices publics

À la réunion du 26 juin 1980 du Conseil consultatif, la discussion porta sur la difficulté d'accès à nombre d'édifices existants et sur la nécessité d'un programme visant à encourager les propriétaires à apporter les modifications voulues à leurs installations. Une proposition fut adoptée qui déclarait ce qui suit: "Étant donné qu'une amélioration de l'accessibilité aux édifices publics existants présenterait des avantages considérables, le gouvernement devrait lancer un programme accéléré d'encouragement fiscal à l'intention des propriétaires des édifices existants, pour les inciter à rendre leurs installations accessibles aux handicapés physiques. Dans une réponse en date du 31 juillet 1980, l'honorable Margaret Birch a indiqué que les préoccupations du Conseil avaient été transmises aux ministres du Revenu, de la Consommation et du Commerce, et du Trésorier de l'Ontario, et que l'on attendait leurs commentaires.

Accessibilité aux parcs provinciaux

En 1979, le ministre des Richesses naturelles a soumis au Conseil administratif une ébauche de guide conceptuel touchant à l'aménagement futur des différents parcs. À sa réunion du 21 août 1980, le Conseil a appuyé une proposition priant l'honorable Margaret Birch d'écrire au ministre des Richesses naturelles pour le presser de publier un guide conceptuel touchant l'accessibilité, à utiliser lors de l'aménagement de nouveaux parcs ou la réfection des parcs existants. Le Conseil priait également le ministre de rendre tous les parcs provinciaux accessibles aux personnes handicapées.

Le 20 novembre 1980, Madame Birch a avisé le Conseil que l'ébauche de guide conceptuel était terminée et que le document serait intégré aux normes d'aménagement des parcs. En outre le ministre assurerait le Conseil que l'accessibilité fera partie des programmes de réfection des parcs existants de même que de l'aménagement des nouveaux parcs. Le 10 novembre 1980, le Conseil des parcs provinciaux invitait un représentant du Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques à participer à une réunion pour discuter de la politique concernant la planification, l'aménagement, le fonctionnement et d'autres aspects de l'administration des parcs provinciaux de l'Ontario. Dans sa réponse, le Conseil a réaffirmé sa position concernant le guide conceptuel et l'accessibilité des parcs provinciaux. Le Conseil a également indiqué qu'il était à la disposition de ses interlocuteurs en tout temps pour faire connaître son point de vue sur cette question.

Accessibilité des installations culturelles et récréatives

À la réunion du Conseil tenue en juin 1979, on s'est dit préoccupé du gel des fonds destinés à l'adaptation des édifices décidé par le ministre des Affaires culturelles et des Loisirs. Après discussion, le Conseil appuya une proposition qui fut envoyée au ministre des Affaires culturelles et des Loisirs le priant de reconsidérer le gel du programme d'octrois. Dans sa réponse du 18 avril 1980, le ministre assurait le Conseil que le gel des octrois n'était que temporaire. Le 1<sup>er</sup> avril 1981, un communiqué du ministre des Affaires culturelles et des Loisirs annonçait le programme 1981-1982 de subventions Winario qui reprénait en partie les subventions d'immobilisations servant à financer la réfection et la construction d'installations culturelles et récréatives en Ontario.

Caravane

Comme il en est fait mention dans le cinquième rapport annuel du Conseil, le Comité a lancé l'idée d'une caravane qui sillonnerait toute la province en 1981 - AIPH, et qui fournirait des renseignements aux personnes handicapées sur les programmes et services disponibles tout en informant le public des problèmes, préoccupations et possibilités des handicapés.

Cette proposition a fait l'objet de discussions avec le Secrétariat à la Jeunesse dans l'espoir que le projet serait lancé dans le cadre du programme "Expérience 81". On a suggéré d'embaucher des étudiants handicapés pour s'en occuper. En janvier 1981, un communiqué du ministre des Affaires culturelles et des Loisirs annonçait d'importantes initiatives en faveur des handicapés. On y lisait entre autres: "Deux caravanes contenant de la documentation sillonneront la province et participeront aux activités et événements locaux marquant l'AIPH. Des conseillers à bord de la caravane inciteront les groupes d'handicapés autonomes à s'intéresser aux questions communautaires".

Le Coordonnateur provincial de l'Année internationale des personnes handicapées a informé le Conseil qu'une exposition itinérante (caravane) serait inaugurée le 25 mai 1981. L'exposition, réalisée par le Bureau du Coordonnateur de l'AIPH, comprendra les commentaires enregistrés et visuels de dix handicapés sur leur infirmité. On a embauché quatre personnes atteintes de différents handicaps pour travailler à cette exposition.

## Comité de sensibilisation du public et d'accessibilité

William Hatt, président  
Joseph West, vice-président  
Athol Layton (président sortant)  
Joseph Arway  
Jim Gerrond  
William Watson  
Délégué auprès du comité:  
Gillian Kearney

### Programme de sensibilisation dans les écoles

À la réunion que tenait le Conseil le 26 juin 1980, le comité a souligné le besoin d'élaborer un programme destiné à renseigner les enfants sur les aptitudes des handicapés. À la suite de discussions, on en est venu à suggérer qu'un tel programme s'intègre au programme d'enseignement régulier du ministère de l'Éducation. La proposition suivante a reçu l'appui unanime du Conseil et a été adressée à l'honorable Margaret Birch:

"Dans le cadre du système scolaire, il y aurait lieu de créer un programme de sensibilisation à partir du début de 1981; ce programme ferait appel à des organismes bénévoles et des visites seraient organisées au cours desquelles des handicapés montreraient aux enfants des écoles de quoi ils sont capables. Le programme pourrait aussi faire usage de films appropriés".

Dans sa réponse, l'honorable Margaret Birch a indiqué que le ministre de l'Éducation appuyait un programme destiné à sensibiliser les élèves et d'autres groupes de personnes aux similitudes et aux différences que présentent les handicapés. Madame Birch ajoutait que le ministère de l'Éducation informerait les présidents et les dirigeants des conseils scolaires de la mise sur pied d'un tel programme.

Le Conseil consultatif est heureux de constater que le ministère de l'Éducation a pris des mesures pour sensibiliser davantage les personnes qui font partie du système scolaire.

Le Conseil consultatif a décidé de faire parvenir aux divers conseils scolaires, avec la collaboration du Bureau du Coordonnateur pour l'AIPH, du Coordonnateur des services de réadaptation et du ministère de l'Éducation, une lettre et une trousse informative contenant des renseignements pertinents de même que les noms des personnes ressources de leur région respective.

### Accès au système de transports ferroviaires

En janvier 1980, un groupe de travail présidé par Margaret Scrivenner, député à l'Assemblée législative, a été mis sur pied pour élaborer un projet sur l'avenir du transport ferroviaire en Ontario.

Le Conseil consultatif a écrit au groupe de travail pour réitérer sa position, à savoir qu'il faut rendre accessibles aux handicapés physiques les gares et installations aériennes et ferroviaires qui sont les moyens d'accès à ces modes de transport.

En janvier 1981, le groupe de travail a publié son rapport final, insistant pour que soient rendus accessibles les services ferroviaires de banlieue nouveaux et existants. Il recommanda aussi des programmes de formation à l'intention du personnel des sociétés ferroviaires pour le renseigner sur les besoins des invalides et appuyer l'engagement de Via Rail de rendre ses services accessibles.

Le comité a demandé qu'on le tienne au courant de l'évolution de ce dossier.

### Stationnement réservé aux handicapés

Depuis l'adoption du projet de loi 195 visant à amender la loi sur les municipalités - le 15 décembre 1979, plusieurs municipalités ont adopté des règlements pour réserver des aires de stationnement aux handicapés physiques. D'autres municipalités étudient actuellement l'opportunité d'adopter de tels règlements.

Le geste positif de certaines villes, notamment la Communauté urbaine de Toronto et Windsor, semble être une approche fort louable qui rendra service aux conducteurs handicapés, sans créer de difficultés aux autres conducteurs ni occasionner de perte financière aux municipalités.

Le 17 juin 1980, le projet de loi 130 - An Act to provide Parking Facilities for Physically Handicapped Persons - a été présenté à l'Assemblée en première lecture.

Ce projet de loi prévoit qu'un pour cent des places de stationnement de tout parking de plus de 25 places auxquelles le public a accès devra être réservé aux voitures conduites par les handicapés physiques ou à celles qui les transportent.

Le Comité sur le transport doit rencontrer Monsieur Douglas Kennedy, député à l'Assemblée législative pour Mississauga Sud, qui est le parrain du projet de loi, pour discuter cette question plus à fond.



Nous avons tenu des réunions avec Monsieur Maack et les représentants du ministère pour discuter la question plus à fond.

Le 17 mars 1981, le sous-ministre du ministère du Revenu a fait savoir au Conseil que, à compter du 1<sup>er</sup> mars 1981, les conditions de réduction de la taxe de vente ont été modifiées pour permettre à un plus grand nombre d'handicapés de bénéficier du programme. Le sous-ministre remerciait le Conseil de son aide et de ses conseils.

### Transport rural

Le transport rural pour les handicapés physiques continue de préoccuper le comité.

En février 1980, le Conseil consultatif a écrit à l'honorable Margaret Birch pour lui transmettre un mémoire de l'association pour les invalides de la ville et du district de Barrie, qui attirait l'attention sur les besoins des handicapés physiques des régions rurales en matière de transport.

En réponse, Madame Birch informe le conseil qu'elle a demandé à l'honorable Keith Norton et à l'honorable James Snow d'étudier ces rapports et de lui faire part de leurs commentaires. En juillet et en octobre, le Conseil a de nouveau écrit à Madame Birch au sujet de cette affaire.

Dans sa réponse du 22 décembre 1980, Madame Birch a signalé que Messieurs Keith Norton et James Snow avaient examiné le mémoire de l'association pour les invalides de la ville et du district de Barrie, "The Bruce/Grey Study - the profile of transportation disadvantaged in a rural area in Southwestern Ontario: the Mobility Club Concept" et avaient fait le commentaire suivant:

"Dès le début des travaux de Transport Canada dans le Sud-Ouest de l'Ontario, le ministère des Transports et des Communications a eu certaines doutes sur le nombre des défavorisés du transport et sur la possibilité d'appliquer le "Mobility Club Concept". Selon les estimations du MTC, l'étude de Transport Canada avait exagéré le nombre des défavorisés du transport. En établissant une relation entre les défavorisés du transport et l'usage personnel ou la possession d'une voiture, on ne détermine pas le désir ou le besoin qu'ont ces personnes d'utiliser une voiture".

Le Conseil a appris que le Bureau du Coordonnateur provincial des services de réadaptation fera une recherche sur le transport et produira un rapport au début de 1981. Ce sera un bon moment pour réexaminer la question.

Le comité entend suivre l'évolution de l'étude.

### Accessibilité aux wagons de passagers

Depuis quelques temps, l'inaccessibilité des wagons de passagers aux handicapés préoccupe le Conseil consultatif. En 1978, il recommandait qu'on adapte les wagons ou le système pour les rendre accessibles aux personnes handicapées. Le Conseil a rencontré les représentants des organismes qui font de la recherche sur les systèmes d'accès et qui conçoivent de tels systèmes. Il a fait des suggestions sur la forme possible à donner aux wagons. Le Conseil a également indiqué qu'une personne qui désire voyager dans son propre fauteuil roulant - qui lui assurerait peut-être plus de confort et de sécurité - devrait être en mesure de le faire.

À sa réunion du 25 juin 1980, le Conseil a reçu un représentant de Via Rail Canada Inc. qui l'a informé des mesures récemment annoncées par cette société pour permettre aux handicapés d'utiliser commodément le système.

Le Conseil a appris que Via Rail aura des dispositifs mécaniques (élevateurs sur les embarcadères ou systèmes intégrés aux wagons) pour aider les handicapés à monter à bord. Il y aura au moins une toilette par train accessible aux fauteuils roulants, qui seront hissés à bord des trains dits de "service complet" aux gares principales des villes suivantes: Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, London, Moncton, Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver, Windsor, Winnipeg. Via Rail projette de mettre sur pied un programme de formation pour permettre à ses employés de mieux s'occuper des passagers invalides.

Margaret Young, coordonnatrice du centre pour les enfants infirmes de l'Ontario et membre du comité, a dirigé, en 1980, un programme de formation à l'intention du personnel de Via Rail. Elle a visité plusieurs gares ferroviaires du pays pour faire connaître au personnel sur place les besoins des handicapés et le sensibiliser aux particularités de leur état.

Le Conseil consultatif s'est réjoui d'apprendre que le programme de Via Rail donnera le choix à un passager en fauteuil roulant de demeurer dans son fauteuil ou d'occuper une banquette.

des Communications de la préoccupation que cause l'absence d'un physiatre au sein de son Comité consultatif médical.

(Les physiatres ont souvent plus de contacts suivis avec les conducteurs handicapés que les autres spécialistes. Ils pourraient donc donner un avis valable en ce qui concerne l'incapacité ou le potentiel de ces personnes en rapport avec la conduite automobile).

Dans une réponse de Madame Birch, datée du 28 août 1980, on lit que le Comité consultatif médical auprès du MTC se compose présentement d'un neurologue, d'un psychiatre et d'un spécialiste de la médecine interne.

Le ministre s'est dit d'avis que les compétences réunies au sein du Comité sont adéquates et que l'expérience a révélé qu'il est préférable de demander l'avis d'autres spécialistes selon les circonstances, plutôt que d'ajouter des compétences qui ne serviraient que rarement.

Le comité sur le transport se propose d'étudier cette question plus à fond.

**Emission de permis de classe "L"**

Le 10 septembre 1980, le Conseil consultatif a porté à l'attention de l'honorable Margaret Birch le fait que les moniteurs de conduite automobile pour les handicapés, dans le cadre des services de réadaptation, n'ont pas l'autorisation de mener leurs élèves hors d'une propriété privée pour parfaire leur formation ou évaluer leurs progrès. Lorsqu'une personne ou son médecin avise le ministre des Transports et des Communications que sa condition physique peut l'empêcher de conduire une voiture en toute sécurité, son permis se trouve annulé et il lui est impossible d'obtenir un permis d'apprentissage (de classe "L"). Cela crée un problème pour reformer et réévaluer ces personnes.

Le Conseil a donc recommandé au MTC d'amender son règlement pour qu'un handicapé dont le permis a été annulé puisse obtenir un permis d'apprentissage lui permettant de conduire un véhicule à double commande, accompagné d'un moniteur compétent, pour recevoir la formation et l'évaluation nécessaires à l'obtention d'un permis régulier.

Le 20 novembre 1980, répondant à la note du Conseil, Madame Birch a informé celui-ci que l'honorable James Snow avait fait la mise au point suivante: si une personne a vu son permis annulé pour des raisons médicales et que, par la suite, elle s'inscrit à un programme de réadaptation qui comprend la conduite automobile, elle peut soumettre au registraire un dossier médical révisé et demander qu'on reconsidère la situation. Si ce

dossier indique que la personne peut réussir les épreuves du programme, le registraire peut émettre de nouveau un permis d'apprentissage. Le sujet muni d'un permis de classe "L" pourrait donc participer à un programme de formation comprenant la conduite automobile sur la voie publique. Monsieur Snow ajoutait que, s'il se présentait des situations auxquelles ce mécanisme ne s'appliquait pas, le ministre était disposé à reconsidérer la recommandation du Conseil.

Le comité sur le transport se propose d'approfondir cette question.

**Recherche sur les systèmes de fixation des fauteuils roulants**

Le comité a fourni les renseignements pertinents au professeur H. Wevers, de Kingston, pour lui permettre de concevoir un projet de recherche sur l'amélioration du système de fixation des fauteuils roulants dans les fourgonnettes et les adaptations nécessaires aux automobiles et aux fourgonnettes à l'usage des handicapés.

La proposition du professeur Wevers et la demande d'octroi ont reçu l'appui du Conseil consultatif et ont été soumis au ministre des Transports et des Communications pour obtenir son autorisation. Le ministère a accordé l'octroi et la réalisation du projet a atteint le stade des épreuves sur plate-forme au Conseil national de recherches à Ottawa. Le comité a reçu à intervalles réguliers des rapports d'avancement sur le projet.

Le comité continuera de surveiller l'avancement de ce projet de recherche.

**Réduction de la taxe de vente sur les véhicules automobiles**

Le Conseil consultatif a soumis à l'honorable Lorne Maack, ministre du Revenu, une proposition recommandant que la loi sur la réduction de la taxe de vente lors de l'achat d'un véhicule automobile par une personne physiquement handicapée soit modifiée pour que puissent s'en prévaloir les handicapés qui ont besoin d'une automobile pour leur usage personnel sans qu'aucune adaptation ne soit nécessaire au véhicule. Le Conseil a recommandé en outre que le ministre du Revenu puisse exiger de l'acheteur une attestation écrite décrivant son invalidité et, au besoin, un certificat de son médecin.

En juillet 1980, une lettre de Monsieur Maack nous a informé que les fonctionnaires compétents de la Direction de la taxe de vente étudiaient la recommandation et que le ministre aviserait le Conseil lorsqu'ils auront fait leur rapport complet.



## Séminaire sur la conduite automobile et les handicapés

Les 12 et 13 mai 1980, le Conseil a parrainé, en collaboration avec le centre de soins aux enfants infirmes de l'Ontario et l'Association canadienne pour les paraplégiques, le troisième séminaire sur la conduite automobile et les handicapés, au centre de soins aux enfants infirmes de l'Ontario et au Glendon College de Toronto. Le comité sur le transport a participé de près à l'organisation de ce séminaire. Ces participants comprenaient des consommateurs, des ergothérapeutes, des physiothérapeutes, des moniteurs de conduite automobile et des représentants de compagnies d'assurances et d'organismes au service des handicapés physiques de même que de différents ministères provinciaux.

Des fonds octroyés par le Bureau du Secrétaire d'Etat ont couvert une partie des frais de voyage, de logement et d'inscription des handicapés qui assistaient au séminaire. Le Secrétaire d'Etat a permis qu'une partie des fonds soit utilisée pour créer une trousse de matériel visuel et imprimé et on envisage présentement de mettre sur pied un programme de suivi.

Le comité a l'intention d'organiser un autre séminaire en 1983 qui coïnciderait avec la réunion de l'association torontoise des moniteurs de conduite automobile pour les handicapés.

## Séminaires pour les examinateurs de conduite automobile - ministère des Transports et des Communications

À la suite du succès remporté par le séminaire sur la conduite automobile qui a eu lieu en mai 1980, le ministère des Transports et des Communications a demandé au Conseil consultatif de préparer et de présenter des séminaires éducatifs à l'intention de ses examinateurs de conduite automobile. La présidente du comité sur le transport, Marian Webb, s'est chargée personnellement de la coordination de ces séminaires.

Des séminaires de deux jours ont donc eu lieu à Ottawa, Toronto et Kingston en janvier et février 1981. Le Conseil a bénéficié de la collaboration active de l'administration et du personnel des services de réadaptation du Royal Ottawa Hospital, du centre de soins aux enfants infirmes de l'Ontario et de l'hôpital général de Kingston.

Ces séminaires avaient pour but de rendre les examinateurs familiers avec les aptitudes et les limites des conducteurs handicapés qu'ils risquent de rencontrer.

L'honorable James Snow, ministre des Transports et des Communications, a écrit à Madame Webb pour la féliciter de la façon dont elle avait coordonné ces séminaires. Monsieur Snow a indiqué qu'il est question d'inclure ce programme informatif dans les séances de formation conçues pour les nouveaux examinateurs. Le comité suit l'évolution de ce dossier.

## Recherche sur l'aide financière pour faciliter aux handicapés physiques l'achat d'un véhicule automobile

Le comité a demandé à la School of Business Administration de l'Université Queen's de faire une recherche sur les fonds qu'il faudrait prévoir pour constituer un fonds de roulement à l'intention des handicapés désireux de se procurer un véhicule (fourgonnette ou voiture) qui pourrait être adapté à leurs besoins ou mis à leur disposition pour accroître leur autonomie.

La recherche est terminée et le Conseil consultatif a reçu un rapport détaillé de l'Université Queen's. Le comité a invité un certain nombre de clubs sociaux et d'organismes à participer à la constitution du fonds de roulement. Deux importantes sociétés pétrolières ont déjà exprimé leur intérêt tandis que d'autres sociétés et organisations examinent actuellement la demande qui leur a été faite.

À sa réunion de décembre 1980, le Conseil a suggéré d'intéresser une organisation nationale à l'administration d'un tel programme, puisque le mandat du Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques ne lui permet pas d'administrer lui-même ce genre d'entreprise. Le 28 janvier 1981, le Conseil consultatif écrivait au Variety Club of Ontario l'invitant à collaborer au programme. Cette association n'a pas encore répondu.

Le projet sera achevé vers le Secrétaire aux Affaires sociales à la fin de juillet 1981, après que le comité aura soumis son rapport d'avancement.

## Un physiatre au Comité consultatif auprès du ministère des Transports et des Communications

À la suite du séminaire de conduite automobile qui a eu lieu en mai 1980, on a appris que le Comité consultatif médical auprès du ministère des Transports et des Communications ne compte pas de physiatre.

Le 8 juillet 1980, le Conseil consultatif a écrit à l'honorable Margaret Birch, la priant de faire part à l'honorable James Snow, ministre des Transports et



## Comité sur l'emploi et la réadaptation

William Murdoch, président

Myron Angus

Fernand Dame

Gerald Cronin (retraité)

Dr Albin Jousse

Clare Millar (retraité)

Maurice Richard (retraité)

### Questions touchant à l'emploi

À la réunion de février 1980 du Conseil, le comité a présenté un rapport et des recommandations sur l'emploi et la réadaptation des handicapés physiques. Les recommandations se rapportent aux sujets résumés ci-dessous:

1. Motivation et formation appropriée dès le jeune

âge.

2. Étude des divers types de services offerts aux

handicapés.

3. Augmentation du nombre de personnes

handicapés aux postes où se prennent les

décisions concernant les handicapés.

4. Diversification des services offerts aux handicapés.

5. Formation et recyclage des handicapés.

6. Formation spéciale en vue de l'emploi.

7. Évaluation des emplois ou services de formation

à l'intention des handicapés.

8. Assistance technique ou dispositifs spéciaux

d'aide aux handicapés.

9. Rédaction d'un catalogue complet des appareils

et dispositifs d'aide aux handicapés.

10. Entretien de l'équipement spécialisé.

11. Emplois appropriés aux handicapés.

12. Direction et coordination des programmes de

recherche.

(N.D.L.R.: Le rapport détaillé et les recommandations

sont conservés au bureau du Conseil).

En août 1980, le Conseil a appuyé la proposition

suivante (N° 2 des recommandations ci-dessus)

présentée par le comité comme projet important

pour l'ALPH (1981):

"Que les ministères concernés revoient les services

qu'ils offrent aux handicapés, tels que la formation

correspondant à leurs besoins sociaux et affectifs

particuliers et qu'ils en fassent part aux parents,

médécins, enseignants, infirmières, travailleurs

sociaux et autres professionnels qui traitent,

conseillent, forment et orientent les handicapés, et

que ces derniers reçoivent des informations

pertinentes sur le potentiel réel des handicapés".

*Projets du comité*

- vérifier si les recommandations passées ont été appliquées
- poursuivre l'étude du domaine de l'emploi et de la réadaptation

## Comité sur le transport

Marian Webb, présidente

Joe Arvey

Lois Harte-Maxwell (démissionnaire)

Jack Longman

Leonard Lotocki

*Délégués auprès du comité:*

Ed Blake

Tom Gregor (démissionnaire)

Lyle Pringle

Margaret Young

### Dispositions en vue d'un rationnement éventuel de l'essence

À sa réunion du 21 novembre 1980, le Conseil a

appuyé la résolution d'écrire au ministre fédéral

compétent pour faire état de la situation des

handicapés dans l'éventualité d'un rationnement de

l'essence. Le Conseil voulait ainsi s'assurer que les

besoins de ce groupe de consommateurs jouiraient

d'une haute cote de priorité.

Le 13 janvier 1981, Transport Canada a répondu

au Conseil que le présent plan de distribution prévoit

trois priorités maîtresses: la santé, la stabilité

économique et le maintien du niveau de vie. On

prendra les dispositions voulues pour que les

véhicules conduits par ou pour les handicapés

reçoivent des provisions d'essence qui correspondent

aux besoins réels de ces derniers. On accordera une

attention particulière au transport des handicapés soit

dans leurs déplacements ordinaires, soit dans ceux

qu'ils doivent faire pour recevoir les soins que

nécessite leur état.

Le Conseil a reçu l'assurance que le gouvernement

fédéral a tenu compte des besoins des handicapés

en matière d'approvisionnement en essence.

## Comité sur les besoins spéciaux des enfants physiquement handicapés

Dr William Orr, président

Nellie Lemon (retraitee)

Heather Rankin (démisionnaire)

Janice Harris

Beverly Gray

Déléguée auprès du comité:

Margaret McLeod

### Centre de soins aux enfants, région Nord-Est de l'Ontario

En juin 1979, le Conseil consultatif a appuyé une proposition de la société pour les enfants infirmes de l'Ontario touchant la mise en oeuvre d'un projet pilote de soins aux enfants handicapés, d'une durée de deux ans, dans le Nord-Est de l'Ontario.

En novembre 1979, le ministre de la Santé, l'honorable Dennis Timbrell a annoncé qu'un nouveau Centre, installé à Timmins, dispenserait des programmes de soins et de services à travers le Nord-Est de l'Ontario. Le Centre a ouvert ses portes en avril 1980; il fournit des services décentralisés de thérapie à près de 140 enfants.

Le Centre, qui a besoin d'un orthophoniste bilingue, est toujours administré par un conseil local qui groupe des représentants des associations communautaires, des parents et des professionnels concernés de la collectivité. Le Centre offre en demi-journées un programme préscolaire limité.

### Prévention des blessures et de l'invalidité

À la réunion du Conseil tenue en août 1980, le comité s'est dit préoccupé de l'habitude croissante qu'ont les parents de transporter les jeunes enfants sur des sièges fixés à l'arrière des bicyclettes. Le comité est d'avis que l'enfant ainsi véhiculé est privé de toute protection. Il appert que cette coutume ajoute au nombre d'enfants blessés et handicapés de façon permanente.

Par l'intermédiaire de l'honorable Margaret Birch, le comité a communiqué ses préoccupations à l'honorable Dennis Timbrell, ministre de la Santé. Dans sa réponse, celui-ci a indiqué que les remarques du Conseil concernaient les enfants transportés à bicyclette pouraient s'incorporer à deux programmes de base prévus dans le domaine de la santé: l'un traitant de l'éducation et de la sécurité prénatales, sur lequel pourrait se greffer la prévention, et l'autre concernant la prévention des accidents au foyer et l'éducation parentale.

### Matériel d'enseignement et d'apprentissage

Le Conseil a également écrit à ce sujet à l'honorable James Snow, ministre des Transports et des Communications. Dans sa réponse, celui-ci a déclaré que la suggestion du Conseil concernant les sièges d'enfants fixés aux bicyclettes est fort appropriée et qu'il se propose de prier le personnel d'éducation publique de son ministère de voir s'il est possible d'inclure une mise en garde à ce sujet dans son matériel éducatif.

Depuis quelque temps déjà, le comité estime qu'il y aurait lieu de faire une plus grande place aux handicapés dans le matériel d'enseignement et d'apprentissage.

Par l'intermédiaire de l'honorable Margaret Birch, cette question a été portée à l'attention du Comité consultatif sur la Circulaire 14 du ministère de l'Éducation, en 1978, pour qu'il puisse l'étudier et faire des recommandations.

À la réunion du 24 octobre 1980 du Conseil consultatif, celui-ci a adopté la résolution de renouveler la recommandation du comité touchant la création d'un manuel de première année qui viendrait s'ajouter à ceux déjà en usage et montrerait des enfants de différentes races et d'autres se servant de fauteuils roulants et de béquilles. Le comité se propose de suivre ce dossier; il aimerait voir ce projet se réaliser au cours de 1981 (AIPH).

### Autres questions dont se soucie le comité

Le comité se préoccupe aussi des questions suivantes:

- le maintien de dossiers adéquats sur le nombre d'enfants handicapés dans la province;
- les grossesses comportant de forts risques et la possibilité qu'un enfant naisse handicapé;
- l'opportunité de réviser le "Traitements standard minimal";
- la disponibilité de professionnels dans les régions éloignées;
- le sort des enfants sourds dans le système d'éducation.

Le comité discutera plus à fond de ces questions et fera des recommandations au Conseil.



participent. On a également suggéré d'organiser un colloque sur les services de logement et de soutien pluriot que de tenir des réunions avec le personnel en charge des projets. Des représentants de tous les projets de foyers collectifs et d'appartements à travers la province y seraient invités. Le comité élaborera le plan détaillé d'un tel colloque et en fera la recommandation au Conseil.

(N.D.L.R.: Puisque le ministère des services sociaux et communautaires tient des consultations sur les projets de services de soutien, on a différé la tenue du colloque jusqu'à ce que la politique soit adoptée et appliquée).

Liste des établissements résidentiels

Le comité a mis à jour sa liste des établissements résidentiels pour les personnes handicapées de la province. Cette liste comprend les établissements résidentiels et les projets financés par le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires en vertu de la Loi sur les établissements de bienfaisance et la Loi sur les foyers pour déficients mentaux, ainsi que les projets financés conjointement par le ministère du Logement et le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires. Toutefois, les établissements de santé et de réadaptation sont exclus de la liste. On peut obtenir des exemplaires de cette liste en s'adressant au bureau du Conseil.

Programme de rénovation des logements de l'Ontario

Le comité a rencontré les représentants de la Direction de la rénovation communautaire du ministère du Logement pour discuter des changements que l'on recommande d'apporter au programme. En principe, le comité ne s'oppose pas aux changements. Toutefois, il est d'avis qu'en tant que mécanisme, le Programme de rénovation des logements de l'Ontario (OHRP) ne résoudra pas les problèmes fondamentaux des handicapés. Ainsi, il n'apportera rien à ceux qui louent des appartements ni à ceux qui ont besoin d'aide pour modifier leur résidence.

À sa réunion du 24 octobre 1980, le Conseil consultatif a appuyé la proposition suivante qu'il a adressée à l'honorable Margaret Birch:

"Attendu que le Conseil appuie les changements qu'on se propose d'apporter au OHRP, mais que ces changements ne permettront pas à bon nombre de personnes handicapées de modifier leur résidence pour qu'elle convienne à leurs besoins, et

Attendu que d'autres programmes tels que les Services de réadaptation professionnelle ont des critères d'admissibilité fort exigeants qui excluent d'autres handicapés, et

Attendu que même une application stricte des changements qu'on recommande d'apporter au Code de la construction ne s'étend pas aux exigences structurales des particuliers,

À toutes ces causes, nous recommandons que la province de l'Ontario établisse un programme de subventions qui permette d'effectuer les modifications résidentielles qu'exige la condition des handicapés physiques".

(N.D.L.R.: Le Conseil n'avait reçu aucune réponse définitive à la fin de l'exercice qui fait l'objet du présent rapport).



Les organismes provinciaux et nationaux ont tenu plusieurs réunions et le président du comité, Jackie Roger, y a présenté officiellement les préoccupations du Conseil touchant les politiques dans ce domaine. Lors d'une réunion subséquente, le comité des services de logement et de soutien a discuté des nombreuses questions liées aux services de soutien à domicile. Les besoins étaient diversifiés et personnels, il est difficile d'établir un ordre de priorité. Le comité a donc conclu que le meilleur moyen d'accroître les chances de mener une existence autonome serait de verser des prestations directement aux intéressés.

Le Conseil consultatif a appuyé à l'unanimité la résolution suivante qu'il a adressée à Madame Birch: "Attendu que le Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques est convaincu que la majorité des handicapés physiques sont en mesure d'organiser et de diriger leur propre existence et d'assumer la responsabilité des décisions que cela suppose, et Attendu que, pour bien des personnes, la solution optimale au problème de services de soutien à domicile est de nature très personnelle, et Attendu que la disponibilité des services de soutien à domicile varie beaucoup à travers la province de même que les conditions d'admissibilité à ces services lorsqu'ils existent.

À toutes ces causes, il est résolu que la législation prévue pour encadrer les services de soutien à domicile devra inclure un mécanisme de prestations versées directement aux personnes qui en ont besoin pour qu'elles puissent élaborer et appliquer un programme de services qui convienne à leur situation propre".

Dans sa réponse, Madame Birch rapporte, entre autres, ce qui suit: "Comme vous le savez, le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires fait présentement une étude sur les services de soutien à domicile dans le but de proposer une loi appropriée le printemps prochain. Monsieur Norton m'informe que, dans le cadre de cet exercice, le groupe de travail a reçu instruction d'examiner s'il est possible de verser des prestations directement aux intéressés pour leur permettre d'organiser leurs propres services de soutien".

échanges de renseignements entre ceux qui y

**Projets de services de soutien**

Dans le domaine des projets de services de soutien, c'est-à-dire les projets domiciliaires intégrés et les foyers de groupe, le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires a publié, en décembre 1980, une série de propositions aux fins de consultation intitulée Policy Framework for Support Services Projects. Le président du comité, Jackie Roger, a assisté aux réunions préliminaires et présenté des documents de travail sur lesdites propositions.

(N.D.L.R.: On a publié les propositions révisées en avril 1981.)

**Projets pilotes**

Le comité a discuté de la possibilité de tenir d'autres réunions avec les représentants des projets pilotes qui se poursuivent à Ottawa, Thunder Bay, Toronto et Windsor. Il aimerait élargir la participation à tous les établissements qui disposent actuellement de mécanismes analogues de subventions, dans le but de voir ce qui se passe dans d'autres situations de groupe. L'accent sera mis sur les difficultés qu'éprouvent les pensionnaires à obtenir des dispositifs d'aide aux handicapés.

Dans le passé, chaque projet pilote était représenté par un membre du personnel et un bénévole (membre du Conseil). Le comité est d'avis que le Conseil devrait continuer de contrôler le financement et le fonctionnement des projets pilotes et faciliter les

Comité des services de logement et de soutien

Jackie Rodger, présidente  
Audrey King  
Donald Warden (retraité)  
Marian Webb

- (a) qu'il existe toujours un réseau confus de sources et de mécanismes de financement qui sont, pour la plupart, de nature discrétionnaire,
- (b) que l'acquisition de dispositifs essentiels dépend souvent de dons charitables,

À ces causes le Conseil renouvelle sa recommandation antérieure d'amender les dispositions de l'OHIP afin:

- (1) que les appareils externes prothétiques et orthopédiques importants ET AUTRES DISPOSITIFS D'AIDE ESSENTIELS soient fournis en vertu de l'assurance-maladie, pourvu que ces appareils fassent l'objet d'une ordonnance émise par une autorité médicale compétente, en outre, que le coût des services techniques connexes soit également défrayé et
- (3) que les mêmes dispositions s'appliquent aussi au coût de remplacement et de réparation de ces appareils.

Appareils orthopédiques et dispositifs d'aide aux handicapés

Le comité n'a cessé de se préoccuper des appareils orthopédiques depuis mai 1976, époque où le Conseil consultatif a appuyé une résolution demandant des modifications aux dispositions du Régime d'assurance-maladie de l'Ontario pour que les appareils orthopédiques et autres dispositifs prescrits par ordonnance soient couverts par l'assurance.

En mai 1980, un étudiant embauché aux termes du programme "Expérience 80" a été affecté à ce comité pour étudier la fourniture de dispositifs d'aide aux handicapés. L'étude avait pour objectifs:

- de réunir une documentation sur les diverses sources d'assistance financière à l'obtention de dispositifs orthopédiques et autres, avec étude des conditions d'admissibilité à cette assurance et des limites imposées;
- d'établir par des études de cas, les contraintes d'ordre financier et autres difficiles qu'éprouvent les personnes handicapées dans ce domaine, à partir d'un échantillonnage d'environ 25 handicapés.

On a donc communiqué avec diverses agences publiques et privées pour évaluer le rôle qu'elles jouaient dans le domaine des dispositifs d'aide aux handicapés.

Cette étude a donné lieu à un rapport présenté au Conseil en août 1980. (N.D.L.R.: Des exemplaires de ce rapport sont disponibles au bureau du (Conseil).

Après un examen de cette étude à sa réunion du 24 octobre, le Conseil a appuyé la proposition suivante qui réitère sa recommandation antérieure sur le même sujet. La proposition a été adressée avec un exemplaire du rapport à l'honorable Margaret Birch, priant le ministre de la Santé de prendre une position claire sur cette question avant le 1<sup>er</sup> mars 1981:

"Attendu que le Conseil a étudié plus à fond le problème du financement des dispositifs d'aide aux handicapés et qu'il a ainsi constaté:

Dans sa réponse du mois de décembre 1980, Madame Birch a fait savoir au Conseil que "la question des dispositifs d'aide aux handicapés fait l'objet d'un examen très attentif de la part des ministres chargés du développement social. Comme mon collègue l'honorable Dennis Timbrell l'a déclaré à l'Assemblée, nous aurons une déclaration de politique sur ces dispositifs au début de l'Année internationale des personnes handicapées.

"L'appui accordé dans le passé par le Conseil aux initiatives prises dans ce domaine et le rapport mentionné ci-dessus ont aidé mon personnel et mes collègues à s'occuper de ce dossier".

Depuis, les ministères responsables de la politique sociale ont eu des discussions avec les représentants des agences et organismes qui s'occupent des handicapés et toute cette question fait l'objet d'un examen très attentif.

Services de soutien à domicile

En février 1980, la Division des services aux adultes du ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires a distribué des exemplaires de son questionnaire sur le Dialogue communautaire sur les services de soutien à domicile à diverses agences et organismes dont le Conseil consultatif.

d'intermédiaire aux sourds-aveugles. En outre, il affectera environ \$100.000 à la création de services d'interprète à l'intention des personnes totalement sourdes. Ces services comprennent l'emploi du langage par signes pour exprimer le langage parlé. Le ministre des Affaires culturelles et des Loisirs, pour sa part, a annoncé dans un communiqué que son ministère étudierait les demandes de subventions Wintario pour rendre les installations culturelles et récréatives plus accessibles aux personnes handicapées.

Le ministre a annoncé en outre qu'une subvention Wintario spéciale de \$375,000 avait été accordée pour 1981 au comité de coordination de la fédération ontarienne pour les handicapés physiques.



Les Nations Unies ont proclamé l'année 1981 Année internationale des personnes handicapées. En 1979, le gouvernement provincial instituait un comité interministériel formé de représentants de 20 ministères. Le but de ce comité est de mettre en valeur les programmes et de rendre plus efficaces les services destinés aux handicapés qu'administrent les divers ministères.

Au début de 1980, l'honorable Margaret Birch a tenu un certain nombre de réunions avec des handicapés physiques et des représentants d'agences, d'organisations, du monde des affaires, de l'industrie et du travail ainsi que des églises, pour discuter de projets pour l'AIPH. Le Conseil consultatif a participé à chacune de ces réunions.

Le gouvernement fédéral a créé un comité canadien d'organisation, réunissant quelque 25 personnes venant de tous les coins du pays, pour planifier les événements de 1981. Le président du Conseil, Jack Longman, s'est vu déléguer à ce comité. Le comité avait pour tâche de fournir une orientation

d'ensemble aux programmes prévus pour l'AIPH; de conseiller le gouvernement du Canada sur tous les aspects des activités prévues pour 1981; de mettre en marche certains événements spéciaux et d'administrer un programme de liaison communautaire, un fonds spécial de projets et un programme d'information publique.

À sa réunion du 21 août 1980, le Conseil invita les représentants de la société pour les enfants infirmes de l'Ontario et du conseil canadien de réadaptation des handicapés à lui soumettre leurs projets pour l'année 1981.

## Comité des services de logement et de soutien

- (a) Que les appareils externes prothétiques et orthopédiques importants et AUTRES APPAREILS ESSENTIELS soient fournis en vertu de l'assurance-santé, pourvu que ces appareils fassent l'objet d'une ordonnance émise par une autorité médicale compétente. En outre, que le coût des services techniques connexes, de même que les coûts de remplacement et de réparation des appareils soient également défrayés par l'assurance.
- (b) Que la province de l'Ontario mette sur pied un programme de subvention à la réfection des logements pour les adapter aux besoins particuliers des handicapés qui les habitent.

- (c) Qu'on se préoccupe d'appliquer la recommandation du Conseil consultatif concernant les soins aux handicapés. (N.D.L.R.: Pour la recommandation concernant les soins aux handicapés, veuillez consulter le rapport du comité des services de logement et de soutien ci-joint. La définition des soins aux handicapés se trouve dans les dossiers du Conseil).

## Comité sur l'emploi et la réadaptation

- (a) La révision par les ministères concernés des services offerts aux handicapés, afin de satisfaire des besoins sociaux et affectifs précis et de faire prendre conscience du potentiel réel des handicapés aux parents, médecins, enseignants, infirmières, travailleurs sociaux et autres professionnels qui traitent, conseillent, forment et orientent les handicapés.

## Comité sur les besoins spéciaux des enfants

- physiquement handicapés**
- (a) Il y aurait lieu de créer un manuel de première année, ajoutant à ceux déjà en usage et montrant des enfants de différentes races et d'autres se servant de fauteuils roulants et de béquilles.

## Comité de sensibilisation du public et d'accessibilité

- (a) Il y aurait lieu de créer un programme de sensibilisation du public, au sein du système scolaire et de s'arranger avec des organismes de bénévoles pour que des visites d'handicapés soient organisées dans les écoles afin de montrer aux enfants de quoi les handicapés sont capables. Le programme pourrait aussi comprendre des films appropriés.

## Comité sur le transport

- (a) Il faut prendre conscience des problèmes de transport rural et y remédier.

Le 12 décembre 1980, l'honorable Margaret Birch fit à l'Assemblée une déclaration sur l'AIPH, où elle faisait état de certains projets en voie de réalisation. Elle annonçait, dans cette déclaration, que le gouvernement de l'Ontario affectait des crédits de \$12 millions à la mise sur pied, durant l'AIPH, de nouveaux programmes que les personnes handicapées au sein de la communauté estiment hautement prioritaires.

Dans son communiqué du 30 décembre 1980, le ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires a annoncé les mesures que son ministère entendait prendre en 1981. Il a réservé quelque \$400,000 pour l'exercice 1981-1982 pour fournir des services

travailler avec encore plus d'ardeur pour nous rendre dignes de la confiance qu'elle accorde à son Conseil consultatif.

Personnellement, je me félicite de l'appui des sous-ministres - Alan Backley d'abord, puis par la suite, Ward Cornell et Ethel McLellan. Chaque fois que je me suis adressé à eux à titre de président du Conseil, ils se sont montrés empressés de me rendre tous les services qu'ils pouvaient.

C'est aussi au cours de l'année écoulée que nous avons, pour la première fois, établi un lien continu entre le Conseil et le Secrétariat par l'intermédiaire du Bureau du Coordonnateur de la réhabilitation, Bob Waterhouse. J'ai le sentiment que cela a donné de bons résultats. Bob nous a été fort utile, non seulement en assistant à nos réunions, mais aussi en nous tenant au courant des travaux de son bureau. Je suis persuadé que le Conseil et le Coordonnateur de la réhabilitation peuvent se compléter efficacement pour mieux servir les handicapés de part et d'autre.

Il arrive souvent que le président d'un conseil comme le nôtre fasse l'objet d'une certaine publicité et qu'on lui attribue un certain mérite, mais je me rends parfaitement compte que le président n'a de valeur que celle des gens qui l'entourent. Je me sens particulièrement gâté de pouvoir travailler avec des personnes compétentes et dévouées; je tiens à

remercier le vice-président du Conseil, Bill Watson, de même que les présidents de chacun des comités, qui ont donné sans compter leur temps et leur savoir-faire.

Je tiens à signaler le dévouement de chaque membre du Conseil qui s'est vu confier une tâche particulière. Je n'ai jamais essuyé de refus. Il va sans dire que le personnel a grandement contribué cette année encore au succès de nos travaux. Je remercie sincèrement, en mon nom propre et au nom des membres du Conseil, le chef administratif Gerry Clarke, l'adjoint administratif Leila Tikaram, de même que l'agent administratif principal Elizabeth Szalowski.

Mille neuf cent quatre vingt un, Année internationale des personnes handicapées, aura certainement attiré l'attention sur les handicapés qui vivent parmi nous. Rappelons cependant que le Conseil consultatif travaille à ce projet depuis six ans et qu'il est déterminé à poursuivre la réalisation de ses objectifs ambitieux tout au cours des années à venir.

Le président,



Jack Longman



Lorsque ce rapport sera imprimé, l'Année internationale des personnes handicapées sera déjà dans son dernier trimestre. Nous savons qu'un grand nombre de projets sont mis en chantier à cette occasion - d'une importance et d'une envergure telles qu'ils se prolongeront bien au-delà de l'année elle-même. Il y a lieu d'espérer qu'on continuera d'obtenir d'heureux résultats; ainsi, lorsque nous aurons terminé tous nos travaux, nous aurons la satisfaction de constater que l'Année des personnes handicapées aura valu tous les efforts que nous y aurons consacrés. Le Conseil consultatif lui-même a fait plusieurs recommandations au gouvernement et a également fait sa part pour inciter les autres à participer à cette année mémorable.

Mille neuf cent quatre vingt un marquera aussi le sixième anniversaire de la création du Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques. Nous rappelant son mandat général (exposé ailleurs dans ce rapport), il conviendrait de faire un examen de conscience et de nous demander si le Conseil s'est bien acquitté de sa tâche. Ceux d'entre nous qui ont oeuvré au Conseil depuis le début auraient peut-être une opinion un peu subjective; toutefois, l'examen des réalisations, en toute objectivité, révèle que nous avons fait des efforts et que nous continuons d'en faire . . . accomplissant, nous en sommes assurés, des progrès constants. Sur une base solide, nous nous sommes engagés à bâtir l'avenir et nous le bâtissons.

La communauté, aussi bien que le milieu social des handicapés, regrettera leur absence et se souviendra longtemps de leur dévouement. L'examen de la liste des membres révèle la présence de huit nouveaux venus. Si, d'une part, il est toujours un peu triste d'assister à des départs (ceux qui démissionnent et ceux qui se retiennent au terme de leur mandat), d'autre part, il est toujours encourageant de recevoir un apport de "sang nouveau"; cet apport est vital pour assurer la croissance et le progrès de l'organisme. À ceux qui ont quitté nos rangs, nous offrons nos meilleurs voeux et nos remerciements pour une tâche bien accomplie. Nous savons que chacun continuera de servir la communauté des handicapés chaque fois qu'il en aura l'occasion. Les nouveaux membres apportent leur propre bagage d'expérience et de

clairvoyance. J'ai consulté le curriculum vitae de chacun d'eux et je sais qu'ils possèdent tous la compétence nécessaire pour s'adonner aux travaux que nous effectuons; ils apporteront au Conseil une contribution dynamique.

Cette année encore nous n'avons tenu qu'un seul débat public; toutefois, ce fut, sans aucun doute, un des événements marquants de l'année pour le Conseil. La communauté des handicapés d'Ottawa nous a reçus et nous a donné une très bonne occasion de constater les problèmes de la région et de nous renseigner sur les solutions qu'on y apporte. Nous avons goûté notre séjour dans la capitale nationale dont la mairie représente un lieu idéal pour tenir une telle réunion. Nous remercions cordialement les membres du comité d'accueil de même que ceux qui ont présenté des travaux. Nous espérons que les handicapés de la région ont pu profiter de l'occasion pour partager avec nous leurs soucis et leurs espoirs pour l'avenir.

Au cours de l'année écoulée, le Conseil a tenu une réunion régulière (autre que celle qui a suivi le débat public) hors de Toronto. En novembre, en effet, le Conseil s'est réuni à Hamilton, après avoir tenu le soir précédé une réunion administrative où les membres ont fait connaissance avec les organismes locaux d'handicapés. Ce fut une expérience enrichissante qu'il vaudrait la peine de répéter à l'avenir.

Outre ces faits marquants, nous avons été très heureux de collaborer avec plusieurs ministères qui ont sollicité notre avis sur les projets qu'ils élaboreront à l'intention des handicapés physiques . . . non seulement dans le cadre de l'Année internationale des personnes handicapées, mais dans le contexte d'une politique à long terme.

Nous considérons que c'est là l'un de nos rôles capitaux, que nous n'avons pas joué aussi pleinement que nous l'aurions voulu dans le passé, mais que nous jouons plus activement à mesure que le temps passe. Il ne fait aucun doute que les ministères qui nous ont consultés ont trouvé nos membres prêts à écouter, à donner leur avis, à offrir leur aide et à faire preuve d'une réelle compétence. Cela devrait leur être fort avantageux pour élaborer leurs projets en faveur des handicapés. Nous nous tenons à la disposition de tous les ministères et agences et ferons en sorte de mériter et conserver leur respect et leur confiance.

Cette année encore, nous avons bénéficié de l'entière collaboration et de l'appui de l'honorable Margaret Birch. Sa détermination à promouvoir l'épanouissement des handicapés physiques est pour nous une inspiration et un encouragement à



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Le Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques a été constitué le 5 février 1975 par un décret du conseil des ministres approuvé par le Lieutenant-gouverneur de l'Ontario. Outre son président et son vice-président, il comprend 19 membres choisis dans toute la province, dont plus de la moitié sont des handicapés physiques. Tous les membres du Conseil ont acquis une certaine expérience auprès des organismes qui s'occupent des handicapés.

Voici le mandat du Conseil:

1. De façon générale, conseiller le Secrétaire de la Province aux Affaires sociales sur toute question relative aux handicapés physiques de l'Ontario.
2. De façon plus particulière, mais sans exclure d'autres tâches:
  - (a) identifier et étudier les problèmes des handicapés physiques et faire des

- (f) présenter au Secrétaire de la Province aux Affaires sociales un rapport annuel des activités et réalisations du Conseil.
- (e) informer régulièrement le Secrétaire de la Province aux Affaires sociales de l'évolution des activités du Conseil;
  - (d) examiner les politiques et programmes concernant les handicapés physiques;
  - (c) promouvoir auprès de ces derniers toutes les occasions de participer à des programmes familiaux et communautaires d'entraide;
  - (b) encourager les citoyens de l'Ontario à exprimer leurs points de vue sur toute question relative aux handicapés physiques;
  - (a) promouvoir auprès de ces derniers toutes les occasions de participer à des programmes familiaux et communautaires d'entraide;

Membres du Conseil

Membres du comité exécutif

* Jack W. Longman, président	WindSOR	Peter G. KingSMill	Don Mills
* William Watson, vice président	Keswick	Nellie Lemon (retraitee)	Cochenour
Myron Angus	Port Stanley	Athol Layton	Toronto
Joseph Arway	WindSOR	Leonard Loteki	Dryden
Toby Brooks	Ottawa	Clare R. Millar (retraitee)	Cambridge
Gerald W. Cronin (retraitee)	Sudbury	* William L. MURdock	London
Fernand Dame	Kapuskasing	* William J. Orr	St. Catharines
Jim GERROND	Toronto	Heather Rankin (démisionnaire)	Willowdale
Beverly Gray	Ottawa	Maurice Richard (retraitee)	Ottawa
Janice Harris	Belleville	* Jackie Rodger	Toronto
Lois Harte-Maxwell (démisionnaire)	Peterborough	Donald Warden (retraitee)	Stayner
* William Hatt	Kingston	* Marian Webb	Kingston
Albin T. Jousse	Toronto	John Yorke (retraitee)	West Hill
Audrey King	Toronto	Joseph West	St. Catharines

Adresse du Conseil

700, rue Bay  
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M5G 1Z6  
Téléphone: (416) 965-9537

Personnel administratif

Gerald F. Clarke, chef administratif  
Leila B. Tikaram, adjoint administratif

Jack Longman  
Président



William Watson  
Vice-président



L'honorable Margaret Birch  
Secrétaire de la Province  
aux Affaires sociales









**Sixième rapport annuel du  
Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario  
sur les handicapés physiques  
pour la période de douze mois  
terminée le 31 mars 1981**







# Sixième rapport annuel

Symbole international d'accès



Conseil consultatif  
de l'Ontario  
sur les handicapés  
physiques



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- A56



# Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped



International Symbol of Access

## Seventh Annual Report







**Seventh Annual Report of the  
Ontario Advisory Council  
on the Physically Handicapped  
for the twelve-month period  
ending March 31, 1982**



**Advisory Council  
on Physically Handicapped**

Advisory to the Secretary  
for Social Development





Photo Ashely & Crippen,  
Toronto

The Honourable Margaret Birch  
Provincial Secretary for  
Social Development



Jack W. Longman  
Chairman



William Watson  
Vice-Chairman



# Organization and aims of the Council

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The Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped was established on February 5, 1975 by an Order-in-Council approved by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. The Council consists of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and 19 members, who are drawn from across the province. Over half of the members are physically handicapped and all possess experience with agencies or organizations working for and with the handicapped.

The mandate of the Council is:

- 1. To advise the Provincial Secretary for Social Development on matters pertaining to physically handicapped persons in our society.
- 2. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing:
  - (a) To identify and study issues of concern to physically handicapped persons and, on the

- basis of the knowledge and experience of Council Members, to recommend action where appropriate;
- (b) To encourage residents of Ontario to express their views on matters relating to the physically handicapped;
- (c) To promote opportunities for self-help for the physically handicapped in the context of family and community;
- (d) To review programs and policies affecting physically handicapped persons;
- (e) To advise the Provincial Secretary for Social Development on a regular basis of progress in the Council's work;
- (f) To submit to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development an annual report outlining the Council's activities and achievements.

## Membership of the Council

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* Jack W. Longman, Chairman	Windsor	Dr. Albin T. Jousse	Toronto
* William Watson, Vice-Chairman	Keswick	Audrey J. King	Toronto
Myron Angus	Port Stanley	Peter G. Kingsmill (retired)	Don Mills
Joseph Arvay (resigned)	Windsor	Athol Layton	Toronto
Toby Brooks (retired)	Ottawa	Leonard Lotecki	Dryden
Fernand Dame	Kapuskasing	* William L. Murdock	London
Jim Gerrond	Toronto	* Dr. William J. Orr	St. Catharines
Beverly Gray	Ottawa	* Jackie Rodger (retired)	Toronto
Janice Harris	Belleville	* Marian Webb	Kingston
* William Hatt (retired)	Kingston	Joseph West	St. Catharines

### \* Executive Committee Members

## Council Office

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700 Bay Street  
2nd Floor,  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5G 1Z6  
Phone (416) 965-9537

## Staff

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Elizabeth Szalowski, Senior Executive Officer  
Gerald F. Clarke, Executive Officer (transferred)  
Leila B. Tikaram, Administrative Assistant

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## Chairman's remarks

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1981 was the International Year of Disabled Persons. It is now a memory - which we on the Advisory Council hope and trust will not fade but remain as a year of "bridging" into a better future for disabled persons, not only in Ontario but in Canada and across the world.

Three quarters of our Council's reporting year fell within the 12 months of IYDP. We had planned and looked forward to the year. Many of us expected to see great changes. Now that the year is over we try to evaluate what happened, and might even wonder whether our expectations were met. Were there really any changes in the life of disabled persons?

While there emerged a number of programs and policies designed to improve the life of the disabled, in my opinion, these new developments are not as great as the opportunity that IYDP provided for focusing awareness on the disabled community. The year spot-lighted the abilities and capabilities of the disabled in overcoming their problems and taking their place in the mainstream of society. Through the various media and personal appearances and speeches, many of us had the opportunity to plant seeds in the minds of the public. If all of us - the disabled and the community at large - keep cultivating and nursing these seeds the HARVEST will come! I believe that we already do see some "sprouting" in the areas of accessibility and public attitudes towards the physically handicapped.

It would be an interesting and I believe a rewarding exercise to look at what was available to the physically handicapped in the year 1971, what transpired during 1981 IYDP, and what we anticipate may be available to us in 1991. If the changes during the next decade follow the same rate of growth as in the past, in ten years life for the physically handicapped will indeed be something to behold! I am sure almost everyone would agree that more has happened (although certainly not enough) in the past ten years than during any decade before.

Our Annual Report describes the Council's work and objectives. I would like to mention some of the major programs that have commenced, been enlarged or been augmented during the past year. Our Council, along with many community organizations and groups, has contributed to their development. These programs include:

- Establishment of the Assistive Devices Program for children aged 18 and under;
- Revision of the Ontario Human Rights Code to include the disabled;
- Expansion of the Parallel Transportation Program; (which now includes over forty communities)

- Commitment by the Ministry of Community and Social Services to provide fifty-two new housing units, with attendant care, per year;
- Provision of Wintario grants to make community buildings accessible;
- Passage of Bill 82, thereby making Special Education available to an increased number of disabled children;
- Introduction of incentives by the Ontario Government to encourage employers to hire disabled personnel.

This past year the Council held two Public Forums - one in Timmins and the other in London. Again, we met many interesting and concerned people and received a number of important submissions. Each submission was either answered at the Forum or referred to the appropriate Council Committee and/or Government ministry.

The year brought some major changes in location and staffing. The Council moved to the second floor of 700 Bay Street, into offices formerly occupied by the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship. Mr. Gerald Clarke, our original Executive Officer, joined the Office of the Co-ordinator of Rehabilitation as a Manager for Information Services. Mrs. Elizabeth Szalowski is now the Senior Executive Officer for both our Council and the Advisory Council on Senior Citizens. Mrs. Leila Tikaram, the Council's Administrative Assistant has assumed an expanded role with added responsibilities.

Council members and myself in particular, are indebted to Gerry for his dedication to the work of the Advisory Council. We wish him success in his new position, which will give him a great opportunity to continue to serve the disabled persons of Ontario. I would also like to thank Elizabeth and Leila for all their work and loyalty to the Council and its Chairman.

Our appreciation goes to the Honourable Margaret Birch, her colleagues and all government agencies and private groups who have given us their support, encouragement and ideas.

My personal thanks to Council members and especially the Executive Committee for their work during 1981-82. The end of the year saw "Whipper" Bill Watson retire as the Council's Vice-Chairman. It has been great working with Bill for the past two and a half years. "Whipper" not only gave his time freely to the Council but also became a cherished friend of mine.

So much for the past. We now set our eyes to the



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future - to the challenges and opportunities in the years to come. Perhaps the best way towards further progress is for all of us to work together to see that the "HARVEST" of the IYDP legacy is an abundant legacy.

We can all share in developing a better future. I would like to extend an invitation to anyone, or any group, who wish to share their ideas, to feel free to contact us. We on the Council have never felt that we had all the answers, or for that matter knew all the problems. We do, as always, welcome input

from all people working for and with the physically handicapped. Together we can build for a better tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. W. Longman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jack W. Longman  
Chairman

# Major issues studied by Committees and Council, April 1981 - March 1982

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## Accommodation and Support Services Committee

Jackie Rodger, Chairperson  
Jim Gerrond  
Audrey King  
Marian Webb

### Assistive devices

In May 1976 the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped endorsed a motion which stated that the Ontario Hospital Insurance Plan (OHIP) should be amended to include the provision of assistive devices. Since that time the Council has continued to press for such an amendment. The Committee has conducted a study on the provision of assistive devices, part of the study's objective being to determine by individual case histories, the financial impact and other difficulties experienced by handicapped persons who require assistive devices. A sampling of approximately 25 handicapped individuals was incorporated into the study.

At Council's meetings and Public Forums, many agencies, organizations and individuals have repeatedly expressed their concern regarding the need to include prescribed assistive devices as an insured benefit.

In a motion endorsed by the Advisory Council during the International Year of Disabled Persons - 1981, "assistive devices" was listed as a priority for the year.

The Advisory Council has always felt that an assistive devices program, when effected, should be a benefit for all handicapped people regardless of age or circumstance. A position paper to this effect was prepared by this committee and unanimously endorsed by the Advisory Council at its January 1982 meeting. Copies of this position paper can be obtained from the Council's office.

In January 1982, Health Minister Dennis Timbrell announced the Ontario Government's Assistive Devices Program to be effective July 1, 1982. Under the program the province will pay 75 per cent of the cost of designated assistive devices for people 18 years of age and under. User and/or agency contribution will be 25%.

In response to the announcement, the Council stated in part: "While we agree that this is a progressive step, at the same time we are very disappointed that the program is restricted to only one segment of our society."

At its January 1982 meeting the Advisory Council

endorsed the following motion and forwarded it to the Honourable Margaret Birch:

- Whereas the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped credits the Government of Ontario on its progressive step in establishing a limited Assistive Devices Program, and
- whereas the adult physically handicapped citizens of Ontario have to continue to struggle through the maze of the charitable or welfare systems, and
- whereas they have to stretch or deplete their own inadequate resources to meet the ever-increasing costs of essential assistive devices,
- therefore it is recommended that NO PRIORITY FOR SUCH DEVICES SHOULD BE BASED ON AGE, TYPE OF DISABILITY, CAUSE OF DISABILITY OR LEVEL OF INCOME.

Mrs. Birch responded by stating that the new program to provide assistive devices to those 18 years of age and under was undertaken after careful and lengthy study and that this initiative represents a significant first step.

With regard to the recommendations made in Council's position paper on assistive devices, Mrs. Birch stated in part: "It is undeniable that a universal program is desirable and therefore, during the first two years of operation, the Assistive Devices Program will be evaluated to determine the implications of expanding coverage."

### Support Service Projects

Early in 1981, the Ministry of Community and Social Services released its proposals for a Policy Framework for Support Services Projects. The proposals were discussed with major agencies, service providers and tenants. This Committee had numerous concerns regarding the proposals, which were documented and forwarded to the Ministry.

Committee Chairperson, Jackie Rodger, attended the Ministry's consultation meetings in 1981, and as a result of discussions, the proposals were revised to reflect a more in-depth understanding of the problems by all parties.

In December 1981 the Committee met with representatives from the Ministry of Community and Social Services to further discuss the issues of one-on-one attendant care, and the discrepancies in GAINS allowances being received by tenants in different projects.

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In February 1982 the Ministry assured the Advisory Council that these issues will be addressed as policy matters and a report should be available to Council by the end of 1982.

This Committee also expressed concern over a new legal agreement which the Support Services Projects were being asked to sign. Assurances were received that the matter would be looked into.

After meeting with Ministry representatives from the Toronto area office and Legal Services, Committee Chairperson, Jackie Rodger, was able to inform the Council at its April meeting that the concerns had been resolved.

### **One-on-One Attendant Care**

In 1979, copies of this Committee's definition of "attendant care" were forwarded to the Minister of Community and Social Services and to the Minister of Housing for their review and comments. This definition, although originally written with tenants living in group type accommodation in mind, is equally valid for those living in other housing situations.

Definition of Attendant Care:

*Attendant care shall mean the provision of such services, on a 24-hour basis, as may be required by a physically handicapped individual in order that all necessary activities of daily living can be accomplished in a reasonable time span.*

*Attendant care includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:*

1. *Personal hygiene including dressing and undressing, bathing, showering, grooming, shampooing, skin care, shaving, makeup, and bowel and bladder care of a routine and stabilized nature.*
2. *Physical care including household and personal laundry, light and heavy housekeeping, shopping, meal preparation and serving, feeding, care of specialized equipment, transfers to and from wheelchair.*
3. *Assistance in essential communication.*

### **Residential Facilities List**

The list of residential facilities for physically handicapped persons in the province, previously prepared by this Committee, was updated. This list includes residences and/or projects funded under the Ministry of Community and Social Services, through its Charitable Institutions Act and Homes for Retarded Persons Act, as well as those projects

under joint funding by the Ministries of Housing and Community and Social Services. Facilities that are health or rehabilitation oriented, with the exception of Ashby House, were excluded from the list. Copies of this list are available from the Council's office. It is anticipated that the list will be up-dated every year.

### **Other Areas of Concern to the Committee**

The following goals were identified as areas of concern and future activity by this committee:

- Develop a position paper on one-on-one attendant care.
- Examine the family's role in the provision of assistance to physically handicapped members.
- Encourage development of specialized units in chronic care institutions. This would include developing a definition of the tenant populations who require such units, as well as a careful examination of their special needs and recommendations for change.
- Study practices and make recommendations regarding the recruitment, orientation and training of attendants. Study and assess the existing systems for meeting the needs of the handicapped individual with respect to support services and accommodation.
- Examine the special needs of various groups of handicapped individuals with respect to support services and accommodation.



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## **Special Needs of Physically Handicapped Children Committee**

Dr. William Orr, Chairman  
Janice Harris  
Beverly Gray

*Representative to Committee:*

Margaret McLeod

### **Education of the deaf child**

During 1981 this Committee's concerns included the education of the deaf child, particularly with regard to methods of communication; integration of the deaf child into the school system; early diagnosis and improved training of those who deal with deaf children.

Throughout the year, the Committee met with various experts and representatives of agencies to discuss these concerns. Among the Committee's guests were Iris Boshes, Co-ordinator of Rehabilitation Services, Canadian Hearing Society; Roy Wallaston, Superintendent of the Ontario School for the deaf; and Rev. Robert Rumball of the Community Centre for the Deaf in Toronto.

Bill 82, which was passed by the Ontario Government in 1981, ensures that Ontario public schools can no longer refuse services to any child because of his/her disability. The Committee examined the implications of the new legislation as it relates to the education of deaf children and will continue to monitor its implementation.

### **Speech Therapy**

Some disabled children are not able to communicate effectively with others. This Committee's concern about this problem led to the Council's endorsement of the following motion on September 24, 1981:

"That the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped ask that speech therapy services be strengthened for children in this province. It is felt that early treatment is mainly preventive and should be provided without the long waiting periods presently necessary in many parts of Ontario."

## **Employment/Rehabilitation Committee**

William Murdock, Chairman  
Dr. Albin Jousse  
Fernand Dame  
Myron Angus

*Representative to Committee:*

Dr. Victor Bennett

### **Workshops**

In April 1981 a representative from the Ministry of Community and Social Services discussed the Ministry's goals and objectives for the workshop system, with council members. A discussion paper entitled, "An Analysis of Goals and Objectives of the Workshop System" was prepared by the Ministry and provided to this Committee for comments.

The discussion paper outlined the objectives of the workshops, namely; employment in the open labour market; provision of sheltered employment; provision of occupational activity. These objectives were developed to meet the Ministry's goal in assisting the disabled by providing care and maintenance or independence and integration.

This committee concluded that the Ministry's proposals appeared to be consistent with their own recommendations.

A position paper relating to the workshop systems, rehabilitation vocational counsellor training, and affirmative action and quota systems, is currently being developed. It should be ready for Council's discussion and endorsement by the summer of 1982.

### **Form 4 - Medical Certificate**

Form 4 - Medical Report in Respect of Impairment - is presently being used in Ontario to determine a person's medical eligibility for income maintenance and vocational rehabilitation.

In February 1979 the Advisory Council proposed to the Ministry of Community and Social Services that Form 4 be revised to improve the assessment process. At that time the Ministry responded by stating that it was reviewing the process of determining eligibility requirements for both the permanently unemployable and the permanently disabled.

This issue continued to be of concern to the Council, and in April 1981, Council requested the Provincial Co-ordinator for Rehabilitation

Services to follow up on the proposal for a modified Form 4. In late June 1981 the Co-ordinator met with representatives of the Ministry of Community and Social Services to discuss revisions of this form.

In September 1981 the Honourable Frank Drea, Minister of Community and Social Services, announced that beginning in 1982 a program will be implemented which will merge the category of permanently unemployable (PUE) with the permanently disabled (Gains D) recipients.

## **Transportation Committee**

Marian Webb, Chairperson,  
Jack Longman  
Leonard Lotecki

### *Representatives to Committee:*

Ed Blake  
Rob Barnes  
Lyle Pringle  
Margaret Young  
Gerald Clarke

## **Driver Examiner Seminars**

As a result of the Driver Training Seminars which the Advisory Council co-sponsored with the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre and the Canadian Paraplegic Association in 1979 and 1980, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (M.T.C.) requested the Council to prepare and present educational seminars for their driver examiners.

Early in 1982, seminars for M.T.C. driver examiners were held successfully in Thunder Bay, Sudbury and London. The seminars were co-ordinated by the Council's Committee on Transportation. The main topic was "The driver with a physical handicap".

Another request was received for a seminar for the inside office staff of The Ministry of Transportation and Communications in the North Bay area. Since this additional seminar is not within the mandate of either the Advisory Council or its Transportation Committee, Ms. Marian Webb and Ms. Margaret Young plan to conduct the seminar on a private basis.

M.T.C. is planning an annual seminar for their new driver examiners as part of their orientation program.

This Committee will prepare a report for M.T.C., based on their overall review of the seminars held.

## **Rural Transportation**

During 1981, this Committee adopted the issue of rural transportation as one of its major priorities for the year.

In 1980 the Advisory Council expressed, to the Honourable Margaret Birch, Provincial Secretary for Social Development, concerns about inadequate transportation for the disabled in rural areas of the province. Council's recommendations for action on this matter were forwarded to the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

The Advisory Council has subsequently been informed that M.T.C. will be developing a research paper on transportation for disabled persons and the issue of rural transportation will be examined at that time.

This Committee kept in close touch with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications throughout 1981, while that Ministry was in the process of preparing a 'Transportation Paper' which deals with transportation programs and services for the physically handicapped in rural areas. Representatives of the Ministry met with this Committee on various occasions and kept the Committee updated with the report's progress. The Committee feels that if a comprehensive plan is adopted, it will greatly improve some of the rural transportation problems being experienced by handicapped persons.

## **Motability Concept**

In May 1981 Council's Transportation Committee Chairperson, Marian Webb, visited two British organizations, Motability and Motability Finance Limited, to seek information about their programs which provides vehicles to disabled persons.

Through the co-operation of banks, some insurance companies and car companies, the British Motability program offers financial packages to both disabled drivers and passengers between the ages of 5 and 59. Under one arrangement a disabled person can have the use of a vehicle for a period of three or four years in exchange for his mobility allowance (a disability benefit) plus payment of an initial rental. The other package is a hire purchase plan which permits a disabled person to buy a vehicle. Payments are distributed over four-and-one-half years and are equivalent to the mobility allowance. The difference between the sum of payments and the actual cost of the vehicle is calculated as the deposit required.

The Transportation Committee examined the feasibility of providing a similar program for disabled residents in Ontario, and commissioned Queen's



University School of Business to do a cost analysis of a model similar to the part loan/part grant aid available to post-secondary students. The Council recommended to the Honourable Margaret Birch, that a program similar to the British Motability concept be researched with a view to feasibility of implementation in Ontario.

The program was considered by the Office of the Provincial Co-ordinator for Rehabilitation Services and forwarded to the Ministry of Transportation and Communications for their consideration.

### **Parking By-laws**

The issue of parking by-laws for the disabled is of great concern to this committee. Thus, Bill 108 (formerly Bill 130) - An Act to Provide Parking Facilities for Physically Handicapped Persons has been followed with great interest. This Bill, which ensures that a minimum of one per cent of all spaces in a parking lot containing more than 25 parking spaces, would be reserved for vehicles operated by the disabled or vehicles which convey the disabled. The Bill received its first reading in the Ontario Legislature in 1980.

In March 1981, Mrs. Birch wrote to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs to investigate the bill further, especially those clauses which deal with on-street parking and the provision of designated parking spaces for the physically disabled.

Mrs. Birch also wrote to the Minister of Transportation and Communications in March 1981, in respect to a draft model by-law for on-street parking.

Mrs. Birch's letter in part stated . . . "I believe that this type of encouragement of uniformity is more appropriate than 'piecemeal' legislation and will be of great value to disabled persons in Ontario."

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications Transit Office has prepared a draft of a model by-law relating to all aspects of parking for disabled people. This has been discussed with various Ministries and organizations. A representative from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications informed the Advisory Council in December 1981 that the model by-law will be distributed to Municipalities in mid-1982 for their endorsement and support.

### **Future Actions**

The Committee will continue to monitor the following plans and programs:

- Motability concept
- Rural transportation
- Driver training

- Parking facilities for disabled people
- The present state of air and train travel for disabled persons
- Further seminars for professionals working in the field of driver training
- Research programs, looking at ways and means of improving the safety of disabled passengers and drivers.

## **Public Awareness/Accessibility Committee**

William Hatt, Chairman  
Joseph West, Vice-Chairman  
Athol Layton  
Jim Gerrond  
William Watson

*Representative to Committee:*

Gillian Kearney

### **School Awareness Program**

In 1980 the Advisory Council recommended that a public awareness program be encouraged within the school system to educate children of the needs and capabilities of the handicapped.

Through the Honourable Margaret Birch, the recommendation was forwarded to the Minister of Education, who responded favourably.

In March 1981 Dr. Bette Stephenson informed the School Boards that the Advisory Council was planning to initiate an 'awareness program' in Ontario schools. To achieve this goal, the Advisory Council together with the Office of the Provincial Co-ordinator for IYDP and the Ministry of Education, developed an Awareness Kit. The kit contained such resource material as a poster, articles about the disabled, a discussion guide on disability, a list of films and other suggested learning activities which a teacher may wish to use. The kit was widely distributed to all school boards. It also provided an added resource for the activities of local groups.

The Awareness Kit was designed to be used in conjunction with the already established and well organized March of Dimes Program - 'Dispelling Old Myths.'

### **Caravan Update**

In 1981, Council's Committee on Public Awareness proposed that a caravan should travel around the



province during the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP) to provide information to the disabled about programs and services available to them and to make the public more aware of the concerns and capabilities of disabled persons.

The Ministry of Culture and Recreation adopted the proposal and on May 25, 1981, the Caravan, organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator for IYDP, commenced.

The display, staffed by handicapped individuals, featured pictorial and recorded statements by ten people who have various disabilities. The Caravan visited a number of cities and towns throughout Ontario.

As a result of its success, the Office of the Provincial Co-ordinator for Rehabilitation Services will be sponsoring an updated version of the Caravan in 1982. The display will be travelling to seventeen cities and towns across the province between the months of June and September. Its intent is to provide information to the disabled on programs and services operated by the Ontario Government as well as to increase public awareness generally.

## **Part 5 - Building Code**

Since 1978 the Advisory Council has been pressing for amendments to the Ontario Building Code and has prepared and forwarded to Mrs. Birch a report in this regard.

Early in 1980 the Council received a copy of the Building Code Branch's recommended amendments to Part 5 concerning access standards for public buildings. After reviewing these recommendations, the Council found them to be unsatisfactory because the amendments were much weaker than those the Council had submitted in 1978.

In July 1981 the Committee met with an Advisor from the Building Code Branch of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations to further discuss the amendments. The Ministry informed the Council that the Code is applicable only to (a) new buildings and (b) new large additions to existing buildings. Because Council members had numerous queries regarding the codes amendments, an Ad Hoc Committee was set up to study the Building Code further.

The Committee felt that all buildings should be accessible to the physically handicapped. As a result the following motion was endorsed at a Council meeting:

"The Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped desires that all new buildings in Ontario be designed to

accommodate the access and egress of the handicapped as set out in the recommendations to the Branch in its 1980 submission."

In August 1981 the Committee again met with a representative of the Building Code Branch to discuss the building exclusions their branch had recommended. The Committee recommended the following:

1. In the construction of new buildings the original recommendations of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped should be adopted. If not, why not?
2. The Building Code Branch should proceed to develop illustrations to assist contractors in interpreting the access provisions of Part 5, as previously agreed to.
3. As agreed, the Building Code Branch should reconstitute its own Study Group concurrent with the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped in order to maintain an on-going review of the Building Code.

These recommendations were sent to the Director of the Building Code Branch.

In mid-September, 1981, the Building Code Branch responded, indicating that they will pursue an additional study of a number of those buildings not included in the amendments. In response to the second recommendation, the Branch stated that existing constraints are hampering the development of an illustrated design guide. With respect to the third recommendation the Branch felt that a study group was not necessary and that their branch could deal with the matter.

The Council was informed in November 1981 that the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations is including the following as part of its continued review of building requirements for the physically handicapped:

- a study of means of egress and general life safety measures for physically handicapped persons in buildings;
- a review of all issues previously proposed by the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped but not yet considered due to lack of sufficiently thorough study or available data;
- an identification of the needs of those with impaired sight or hearing;
- a review and determination of the role of available illustrated design guides or handbooks for use by building owners and designers.

In January 1982, the Committee again met with representatives from the Building Code Branch of

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the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. At that meeting they agreed to work towards the implementation of all of Council's recommendations in respect to Part 5 of the Ontario Building Code.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Building Standards has since been dissolved and a new standing committee on Access has been established. The Access Committee will continue to study this issue and is currently trying to establish a liaison with professionals in design and construction in an effort to achieve better committee focus.

# Other Areas of Council's Involvement

## April 1981 - March 1982

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### Public Forums

During 1981, the Advisory Council held two Public Forums, one in Timmins and the other in London. Since the inception of the Council, eight Public Forums have been held to-date.

The main purpose of these forums is to encourage the public to express their views and concerns and thus enable the Council to gain first hand information on matters pertaining to the physically handicapped across the province.

It is apparent to the Council that there are five areas of major concern to disabled individuals. These are: employment, accommodation and support services, transportation, education and/or training, accessibility and public awareness.

The issues brought before Council at the Forums were informative and the information gained will assist Council members in formulating recommendations to the Ontario government on policies and programs for the disabled.

Subsequent to the Public Forum held in London in October 1981, the Advisory Council forwarded copies of the briefs received to every organization that had submitted a brief. Copies of the briefs submitted were also forwarded to the appropriate government Ministries.

### Retail Sales Tax

Early in 1981, the Ministry of Revenue announced that effective March 1, 1981 the retail sales tax on vehicles for the transportation of the physically handicapped would be revised. This extension of the program has permitted a greater number of disabled persons to enjoy the benefits of the retail sales tax program on vehicles.

The Advisory Council has been working for such a change since 1980, contributing to the original rebate program and the subsequent adopted amendments.

In May 1981, in a letter to the Council, the Minister of Revenue indicated that he would continue to consult with the Council, should any developments occur within the Ministry which pertain to the disabled.

In October 1981 the Advisory Council met with a Senior Tax Specialist from the Ministry of Revenue and discussed some of the problems the Ministry is encountering with the administration of the Sales Tax Rebate Program as it applies to aids and equipment purchased by the disabled. The Ministry

is especially concerned that the program meets the needs of the disabled and that it not be misused.

The Advisory Council will continue to monitor the implementation of the Sales Tax Rebate Program.

### Human Rights - Bill 7

The issue of human rights has been, and continues to be one of the Advisory Council's major concerns.

In November 1980, Bill 209, a revision of the Ontario Human Rights Code, received its first reading. Because of the March 1981 announcement of a provincial election, the legislative assembly and its committees were dissolved and Bill 209 was shelved. When the new session of the Assembly commenced, Bill 209 was re-introduced as Bill 7.

Bill 7 - An Act to revise and extend Protection of Human Rights in Ontario, includes the following principle changes:

1. The circumstances under which discrimination is prohibited are extended to include:
  - (a) discrimination in the equal treatment with respect to goods, services and facilities generally and not limited to those available in a place to which the public is customarily admitted;
  - (b) discrimination in contracts;
  - (c) discrimination because of a person's association with others;
  - (d) discrimination on a ground that has the result of discrimination because of a prohibited ground;
  - (e) harassment of an occupant of accommodation by the landlord or another occupant because of a prohibited ground;
  - (f) harassment of an employee by the employer or another employee because of a prohibited ground of discrimination;
  - (g) harassment because of sex in accommodation or a workplace and sexual solicitation, reprisal or threat of reprisal by a person in a position of authority.
2. The prohibited grounds of discrimination are extended to include:
  - (a) handicap;
  - (b) marital status with certain exceptions in the case of accommodation;
  - (c) record of offences in the case of employment;
  - (d) age over 18 and in the case of employment, under 65 years;



- (e) family with certain exceptions in the case of accommodation;
  - (f) receipt of public assistance in the case of accommodation.
3. Sanctions against discrimination in employment by contractors under Government contracts.
  4. Protection in employment is extended to domestic workers.
  5. Landlords and employers may be made responsible to prevent harassment of tenants and employees.
  6. The Bill would bind the Crown and have primacy over other legislation.
  7. The Commission is empowered to recommend for consideration special plans or programs.
  8. A Race Relations Division is established with its own Commissioner.
  9. Boards of Inquiry are required to issue decisions within 30 days of the conclusion of their hearings.
  10. Boards of Inquiry are empowered to award damages for mental anguish in aggravated cases."

In June 1981, a representative of the Council presented a brief to the Standing Committee on Resource Development with respect to Bill 7. The two areas dealt with in the brief were:

#### 1. Reasonable Accommodation

The Council finds the wording of s. 38 of the Bill quite disconcerting insofar as it implicitly prevents a Board of Inquiry from investigating an employer or landlord etc., who chooses to hide behind some physical barrier or obstruction as a means of discriminating against the handicapped. An employer may, for example, refuse to hire a person in a wheelchair to be a clerk in a stationery store because there is one step in the middle of the store dividing the store into two, thus preventing the clerk from performing some of the essential duties of his job. By virtue of s. 16 no right would be infringed and hence it would appear that s. 38(2) and 38(3) would have no application. This may or may not have been the intention of the government but that would appear to be the result on the strict reading of s. 28 and s. 16. The Advisory Council recommended that s. 16 be amended to incorporate the concept of "reasonable accommodation" which essentially means that discrimination would be prohibited when a handicapped person would in fact

perform the essential duties attending the exercise of a right if some reasonable accommodation is made. What will be "reasonable" will of course depend on all of the circumstances.

#### 2. Constructive Discrimination

S. 10 of the Bill attempts to prohibit "constructive discrimination" which occurs when an individual indirectly discriminates. Although the Council commends the government for its concerns about constructive discrimination, we are concerned that s. 10 may in some circumstances allow unjustifiable discrimination which would otherwise be prevented by s. 16. This is due to the fact that the proviso in s. 10(a) is far less rigorous than that provided in s. 16.

Self-service gas stations have been suggested as a good example of "constructive discrimination". Self-service gas stations make it a requirement that one pump his or her own gas. This, of course, is not a prohibited ground of discrimination and is a reasonable and bona fide requirement. The fact remains, however, that many physically handicapped drivers cannot handle the pumps at a self-service gas station. As long as there are still full-service gas stations in every community the problem may not be a serious one. But the recent proliferation of self-service stations gives every physically handicapped driver cause for concern. In our view, the fact the discrimination is not intended is irrelevant. The physically handicapped (indeed all of the minorities recognized in Bill 7) should be entitled to expect equal access to all goods and services unless there are compelling reasons to justify their exclusion.

The Advisory Council requested that s. 10 be amended to ensure that "constructive discrimination" be prohibited in all cases except where there are compelling reasons to justify it.

Council will monitor the implementation of this new law which will become effective in June 1982, the anniversary of the original Ontario Human Rights Code.

#### Compatible Telephone Equipment

In late December 1980, the Advisory Council wrote to the Honourable Margaret Birch urging her to write to the Canadian Radio Television and Tele-Communications Commission, requesting them to enact a requirement that all telephones sold in Canada be compatible with hearing aids and Tele-Type for the Deaf, in order

to assure universal accessibility of communication systems.

In February 1981, Mrs. Birch informed the Council that the matter had been referred to the Minister of Transportation and Communications for his assistance. It was suggested by the Minister that the Council should contact both the Canadian Radio Television and Tele-Communications Commission and the Electronic Equipment Manufacturers Association of Canada directly in respect to this issue.

Accordingly, in May 1981 the Advisory Council wrote to the above, expressing concerns regarding compatible telephone equipment and hearing aids.

The Canadian Radio Television and Tele-Communications Commission responded in June 1981 stating that the issue would be discussed at its November 1981 hearings. The Advisory Council was subsequently informed that the matter was raised at the hearings. To date no further response has been received in this regard.

## **Ad Hoc Committee on Income Tax Laws-Re the Physically Handicapped**

Joseph West, Chairman  
William Hatt  
Toby Brooks

### *Representatives to Committee:*

Jim Nicol  
Gerald Clarke

In 1980, Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Income Tax Laws recommended changes in the Ontario tax system which would benefit disabled persons.

Through the office of The Honourable Margaret Birch, the Committee's recommendation was forwarded to the Ministry of Treasury and Economics. In November 1980, the Honourable Frank Miller, Treasurer of Ontario, responded. The Advisory Council found his response disappointing, and in July 1981, requested Mrs. Birch to once again approach the Ministry to seek its co-operation in having this matter reviewed again by the Ministry's staff.

In November 1981, Council's Committee on Income Tax Laws met with representatives of the Ministry of Treasury and Economics to discuss Council's concerns relating to income tax laws and the physically handicapped. Council argued that the income tax system could be a delivery system for offering equitable relief to the handicapped, and in addition, it would allow the province to share the cost with the Federal Government. The province or the taxation system should, in Council's opinion, give recognition to the non-discretionary spending of the handicapped by virtue of their disability needs. The exemption principle is already recognized in the "Basic Exemption" provision of the Federal Income Tax requirements. The province's support is of a paramount importance in future dealings with the Federal Government.

This issue continues to be a high priority item for this Committee.

## Council's Guests . . . 1981 - 1982

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### Meeting Dates

### Names

April 1981

Peter Crichton,  
Executive Co-ordinator of  
Employment Programs,  
Ministry of Community and  
Social Services

Bill Thorsteinson,  
Co-ordinator, IYDP

Belinda Morin, Co-ordinator  
The Municipality of Metro  
Toronto Social Services  
Department

June 1981

Bill Thorsteinson,  
Co-ordinator, IYDP

Hart Frank,  
Building Code Branch,  
Ministry of Consumer and  
Commercial Relations,

August 1981

The Honourable William  
Davis,  
Premier of Ontario

The Honourable Dennis  
Timbrell,  
Minister of Health,

The Honourable Margaret  
Birch,  
Provincial Secretary for Social  
Development,

Dr. Helen Demshar,  
Health Education Services,  
Ministry of Health,

Bill Thorsteinson,  
Co-ordinator, IYDP

Barbara Saunders,  
Office of the Provincial  
Co-ordinator for Rehabilitation  
Services,

September 1981

Dr. Dorothea Crittenden,  
Chairman, Ontario Human  
Rights Commission,

Jill Armstrong,  
Manager, Program Review  
and Design,  
Ontario Human Rights  
Commission,

September 1981

Peter Crichton,  
Consultant, Ontario Human  
Rights Commission

Bill Thorsteinson,  
Co-ordinator, IYDP

Ian Parker,  
Asst. Co-ordinator, IYDP

Bob Waterhouse,  
Provincial Co-ordinator,  
Secretariat for Social  
Development,

October 1981

Krish Krishnan,  
Senior Tax Specialist,  
Ministry of Revenue

Brenda Parris,  
Office of the Co-ordinator  
for Rehabilitation Services

December 1981

Gerald Clarke,  
Manager, Information  
Services,  
Office of the Co-ordinator for  
Rehabilitation Services

Judge George Thompson,  
Associate Deputy Minister,  
Ministry of Community and  
Social Services

Bill Thorsteinson,  
Co-ordinator, IYDP

Bob Waterhouse,  
Provincial Co-ordinator,  
Secretariat for Social  
Development

January 1982

The Honourable Frank Drea,  
Minister of Community and  
Social Services

Betty Jean McDonald,  
Consultant,  
Assistive Devices Program,  
Ministry of Health

Margaret Young,  
Co-ordinator,  
Driver Education Program,  
Easter Seal Society



Date des réunions	Nom		
Avril 1981	Peter Crichton Coordonnateur général des programmes d'emploi Ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires	Bill Thorsteinson Coordonnateur de l'AIPH Belinda Morin Coordonnateur Services sociaux de la Communauté urbaine de Toronto	Bill Thorsteinson Coordonnateur de l'AIPH Hart Frank Direction du Code du bâtiment Ministère de la Consommation et du Commerce
Juin 1981	Bill Thorsteinson Coordonnateur de l'AIPH	Bill Thorsteinson Coordonnateur de l'AIPH	Premier ministre de l'Ontario L'honorable Dennis Timbrell Ministre de la Santé L'honorable Margaret Birch Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales Dr Helen Demshar Services d'éducation - Santé Ministère de la Santé
Septembre 1981	Dr Dorothea Crittenden Présidente Commission des droits de la personne de l'Ontario	Barbara Saunders Bureau du coordonnateur provincial des services de réadaptation	Bill Thorsteinson Coordonnateur de l'AIPH L'honorable Frank Drea Ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires
Septembre 1981	Jill Armstrong Chef de la conception et de la révision des programmes Commission des droits de la personne de l'Ontario	Bill Thorsteinson Coordonnateur de l'AIPH Bob Waterhouse Coordonnateur provincial Secrétariat aux Affaires sociales L'honorable Frank Drea Ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires	Betty Jean McDonald Expert - conseil Programme d'aide à l'achat de prothèses et d'autres dispositifs Ministère de la Santé Margaret Young Coordonnateur Programme de formation des conducteurs Société des Timbres de Pâques
Octobre 1981	Bill Thorsteinson Coordonnateur de l'AIPH Ian Parker Coordonnateur adjoint de l'AIPH Bob Waterhouse Coordonnateur provincial Secrétariat aux Affaires sociales Krish Krishnan Spécialiste principal en fiscalité Ministère du Revenu	Brenda Parris Bureau du coordonnateur des services de réadaptation Gerald Clarke Chef des services d'information Bureau du coordonnateur des services de réadaptation Juge George Thompson Sous-ministre adjoint Ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires	Bill Thorsteinson Coordonnateur de l'AIPH Bob Waterhouse Coordonnateur provincial Secrétariat aux Affaires sociales L'honorable Frank Drea Ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires
Décembre 1981			
Janvier 1982			

Le Conseil surveillera l'application de cette nouvelle législation, qui prendra effet en juin 1982, date anniversaire du premier Code des droits de la personne de l'Ontario.

**Équipement téléphonique compatible**

À la fin de décembre 1980, le Conseil consultatif a écrit à Madame Margaret Birch, la pressant d'écrire au Conseil de la radiodiffusion et des télécommunications canadiennes pour lui demander d'adopter une règle stipulant que tous les téléphones vendus au Canada soient compatibles avec les appareils de prothèse auditive et les téléimprimés pour déficients auditifs, afin d'assurer l'accessibilité de tous aux systèmes de communication.

En février 1981, Madame Birch a informé le Conseil que la question avait été renvoyée au ministre des Transports et des Communications pour obtenir son aide. Le ministre a suggéré que le Conseil devrait prendre directement contact avec le CRTC et l'Association des manufacturiers d'équipement électrique et électronique du Canada pour ce qui est de cette question.

En mai 1981, le Conseil consultatif a donc écrit aux deux organismes ci-dessus pour leur faire part de ses préoccupations en ce qui concerne l'équipement téléphonique compatible avec les appareils de prothèse auditive. Le CRTC a répondu en juin 1981 en indiquant que la question serait discutée lors de ses audiences de novembre 1981. Il a par la suite informé le Conseil consultatif que la question avait été soulevée aux audiences. Jusqu'à présent, le Conseil n'a reçu aucune réponse complémentaire à cet égard.

**Comité temporaire sur les lois touchant l'impôt sur le revenu et les handicapés physiques**

Joseph West, président  
William Hatt  
Toby Brooks

*Délégués auprès du comité:*

Jim Nicol  
Gerald Clarke

En 1980, le comité temporaire sur les lois touchant l'impôt sur le revenu a recommandé des changements du système fiscal ontarien en faveur des personnes handicapées.

Le comité a adressé sa recommandation au ministre du Trésor et de l'Économie par l'entremise de Madame Margaret Birch, M. Frank Miller, trésorier de l'Ontario, y a répondu en novembre 1980. Le Conseil consultatif a jugé cette réponse décevante et, en juillet 1981, a demandé à Madame Birch de faire de nouvelles démarches auprès du ministre afin d'obtenir la collaboration de ce dernier pour que son personnel étudie de nouveau la question.

En novembre 1981, les membres du comité sur les lois touchant l'impôt sur le revenu se sont réunis avec des fonctionnaires du ministère du Trésor et de l'Économie pour discuter des préoccupations du Conseil quant aux effets des lois de l'impôt sur le revenu sur les handicapés physiques. Le Conseil a fait valoir que le système de l'impôt sur le revenu pourrait être un système de distribution offrant un allègement équitable pour les handicapés et, de plus, cela permettrait à la province de partager les coûts avec le gouvernement fédéral. De l'avis du Conseil, la province ou le système fiscal devrait reconnaître les dépenses obligatoires auxquelles doivent faire face les handicapés en raison des besoins occasionnés par leur invalidité. Le principe d'exemption est déjà reconnu dans la disposition d'«exemption de base» des règlements fédéraux en matière d'impôt sur le revenu. Le soutien de la province est d'une importance capitale dans les négociations futures avec le gouvernement fédéral. Cette question reste une priorité pour le comité.



- b) l'état matrimonial avec quelques exceptions en ce qui concerne le logement;
  - c) l'existence d'un casier judiciaire en ce qui concerne l'emploi;
  - d) l'âge pour les personnes âgées de plus de 18 ans et, dans le cas du travail, de moins de 65 ans;
  - e) la famille, avec quelques exceptions en ce qui concerne le logement;
  - f) l'état d'assisté social en ce qui concerne le logement.
3. Des sanctions sont prévues pour toute discrimination dans l'emploi pratiquée par les entrepreneurs liés par des contrats gouvernementaux.
  4. La protection d'emploi s'étend désormais aux domestiques.

5. Les propriétaires et les employeurs peuvent être chargés d'empêcher le harcèlement de leurs locataires et de leurs employés.
  6. La loi lierait la Couronne et aurait la priorité sur toutes les autres lois.
  7. La Commission a le pouvoir de recommander que soient étudiés des programmes ou des plans particuliers.
  8. Une section des rapports entre les races dirigée par un Commissaire est instituée.
  9. Des commissions d'enquête sont tenues de rendre leur décision dans les 30 jours qui suivent la fin des audiences.
  10. Les commissions d'enquêtes ont le pouvoir d'accorder des dommages moraux dans des cas graves.
- En juin 1981, un représentant du Conseil a présenté un mémoire au Comité permanent sur le Développement des ressources en ce qui concerne le projet de loi n° 7. Les deux secteurs traités dans le mémoire étaient les suivants:

# 1. Aménagement raisonnable

Le Conseil trouve que la formulation de l'article 38 du projet de loi est tout à fait étonnante dans la mesure où cet article empêche implicitement une commission d'enquête d'étudier le cas d'un employeur ou d'un propriétaire qui choisit de dissimuler derrière quelque barrière ou obstacle physique une discrimination à l'égard des personnes handicapées. Un employeur peut, par exemple, refuser d'engager une personne en fauteuil roulant comme commis dans une papeterie parce qu'une marche au milieu du magasin divise celui-ci en deux, empêchant ainsi le commis d'effectuer certaines tâches essentielles à son travail. Il semble qu'en vertu

2. Discrimination implicite
- L'article 10 du projet de loi tente d'interdire la "discrimination implicite" qui se produit lorsqu'une personne exerce indirectement une discrimination. Bien que le Conseil approuve le gouvernement de s'intéresser à la question de la discrimination implicite, il reste préoccupé par le fait que l'article 10 peut dans certaines circonstances permettre une discrimination injustifiable qui pourrait par ailleurs être prévenue par l'article 16. Ceci est dû au fait que la restriction de l'article 10a) est de loin moins stricte que celle prévue à l'article 16.
- On a suggéré que les postes d'essence libre-service constituent un bon exemple de "discrimination implicite". La règle de ces stations est que le client se sert lui-même. Ceci n'est bien sûr pas une cause de discrimination interdite; c'est une règle raisonnable et de bonne foi. Il reste cependant que de nombreux conducteurs handicapés ne peuvent se servir des distributeurs dans une station d'essence libre-service. Tant qu'il existera des stations offrant un service complet dans toutes les collectivités, le problème peut ne pas être grave. Mais la récente multiplication des postes libre-service préoccupe tous les conducteurs handicapés. À notre avis, le fait que la discrimination ne soit pas voulue n'a aucun rapport avec la question. Les handicapés physiques (et à vrai dire, toutes les minorités reconnues par le projet de loi n° 7) devraient être en droit de s'attendre à une égalité d'accessibilité à tous les biens et services, à moins que des raisons impérieuses ne justifient leur exclusion.
- Le Conseil consultatif demande que l'article 10 soit modifié pour s'assurer que la "discrimination implicite" est interdite dans tous les cas, excepté lorsqu'il existe des raisons impérieuses de la justifier.

de l'article 16, nul droit ne serait violé et que, de là, les articles 38(2) et 38(3) ne s'appliqueraient pas. Ceci peut ou non avoir été le résultat d'une interprétation stricte des articles 28 et 16. Le Conseil consultatif recommande que l'article 16 soit modifié pour introduire la notion d'"aménagement raisonnable" qui signifie essentiellement que la discrimination sera interdite lorsqu'une personne handicapée pourra en fait effectuer les tâches essentielles dans l'exercice d'un droit si on prévoit un aménagement raisonnable. Ce qui est "raisonnable" dépendra bien sûr de toutes les circonstances.



Débats publics

En 1981, le Conseil consultatif a tenu deux débats publics, l'un à Timmins et l'autre à London. Depuis la création du Conseil, huit débats publics ont jusqu'à présent eu lieu.

Le principal but de ces débats est d'encourager le public à exprimer ses vues et ses préoccupations et permettre ainsi au Conseil d'obtenir des renseignements de première source sur des questions relatives aux handicapés physiques dans toute la province.

Il apparaît clairement au Conseil qu'il existe cinq domaines posant des problèmes importants pour les personnes handicapées, à savoir l'emploi, le logement et les services de soutien, le transport, l'éducation ou la formation, l'accessibilité et la sensibilisation du public.

Les questions portées devant le Conseil lors des débats publics ont fourni des renseignements précieux qui aideront les membres à formuler des recommandations au gouvernement de l'Ontario sur les politiques et les programmes touchant les personnes handicapées.

À la suite du débat public tenu à London en octobre 1981, le Conseil consultatif a adressé des exemplaires des mémoires reçus à tous les organismes en ayant présenté un. Des exemplaires de ces mémoires ont également été adressés aux ministères concernés.

Taxe de vente au détail

Au début de 1981, le ministère du Revenu a annoncé qu'à compter du 1<sup>er</sup> mars 1981, la taxe de vente sur les véhicules automobiles pour le transport des handicapés physiques serait révisée. Cette extension du programme a permis à un plus grand nombre de personnes handicapées de bénéficier du programme de réduction de la taxe de vente sur les véhicules automobiles.

Le Conseil consultatif travaille depuis 1980 à un tel changement, en collaborant au programme original de remise et en travaillant aux modifications adoptées par la suite.

En mai 1981, dans une lettre adressée au Conseil, le ministre du Revenu a indiqué qu'il continuerait de demander l'avis du Conseil, au cas où des faits nouveaux touchant les handicapés surviendraient au sein du ministère.

En octobre 1981, les membres du Conseil consultatif se sont réunis avec un spécialiste principal en fiscalité du ministère du Revenu et ont discuté

Droits de la personne - Projet de loi n° 7

quelques-uns des problèmes que rencontre le ministère en appliquant le programme de remise sur la taxe de vente à l'achat d'aides et d'équipement par les handicapés. Le ministère vise à répondre aux besoins des personnes handicapées sans qu'il y ait d'utilisation abusive du programme.

Le Conseil consultatif continuera de surveiller l'application du programme de remise de la taxe de vente sur les véhicules automobiles.

La question des droits de la personne a été et reste une des principales préoccupations du Conseil consultatif.

En novembre 1980, le projet de loi n° 209, qui était une révision du Code des droits de la personne de l'Ontario, a été présentée en première lecture. Toutefois, à la suite du déclenchement des élections provinciales de mars 1981, le lieutenant-gouverneur a dissous l'Assemblée législative et ses comités, et le projet de loi n° 209 a été mis en veilleuse. Au début de la nouvelle séance de l'Assemblée, le projet de loi n° 209 a été présenté à nouveau comme projet de loi n° 7.

Le projet de loi n° 7 - Loi pour réviser et accroître la protection des droits de la personne en Ontario - comprend les changements importants suivants:

1. Les circonstances où la discrimination est interdite s'étendent désormais:
  - a) aux biens, services et installations en général et non pas seulement à ceux qui sont disponibles dans un lieu auquel le public a ordinairement accès;
  - b) aux contrats;
  - c) aux relations qu'une personne entretient avec d'autres individus;
  - d) à une exigence qui aurait pour effet de causer une nouvelle discrimination interdite;
  - e) au harcèlement de l'occupant d'un logement par le propriétaire ou un autre occupant pour motif interdit;
  - f) au harcèlement d'un employé par son employeur ou un autre employé pour motif interdit;
  - g) au harcèlement en raison du sexe dans un logement ou sur le lieu de travail, et aux avances sexuelles, représailles ou menace de représailles par une personne occupant un poste d'autorité.
2. Les causes interdites de discrimination s'étendent désormais à:
  - a) un handicap;

recommandation, la Direction a déclaré que des contraintes existantes entravent la production d'un guide conceptuel illustré. En ce qui concerne la troisième recommandation, la Direction est d'avis qu'un groupe d'étude n'était pas nécessaire et qu'elle pouvait traiter la question.

Le Conseil a été informé en novembre 1981, que le ministère de la Consommation et du Commerce inclut ce qui suit dans sa révision permanente des exigences de construction en ce qui a trait aux handicapés physiques:

- une étude des sortes et des mesures générales de sécurité pour les personnes physiquement handicapées dans les édifices;
- une révision de toutes les questions proposées auparavant par le Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques, qui n'ont pas encore été examinées en raison de l'absence d'une étude suffisamment approfondie ou du manque de données accessibles;
- une identification des besoins de ceux qui souffrent de troubles visuels ou auditifs;
- une révision et une précision du rôle des manuels ou guides conceptuels illustrés qui existent, pour que les dessinateurs et les propriétaires d'édifices puissent les utiliser.

En janvier 1982, les membres du comité se sont de nouveau réunis avec des représentants de la Direction du Code du bâtiment du ministère de la Consommation et du Commerce. Lors de cette réunion, les participants se sont mis d'accord pour travailler à la mise en application de toutes les recommandations du Conseil relatives à la partie 5 du Code du bâtiment de l'Ontario.

Le comité temporaire sur les normes de construction a depuis été dissous et un nouveau comité permanent sur l'accessibilité a été constitué. Ce comité poursuivra l'étude de cette question et tente actuellement d'assurer un lien avec les spécialistes de la conception et de la construction pour permettre au comité de se concentrer sur sa tâche.



sensibilisation". Cette trousse contenait une affiche, des articles sur les personnes handicapées, un guide de discussions sur les handicaps, une liste de films et des suggestions d'activités éducatives pour les enseignants. La trousse a été largement distribuée dans tous les conseils scolaires; elle offre également des ressources supplémentaires pour des groupes locaux.

La "trousse de sensibilisation" a été prévue pour être utilisée conjointement avec le programme déjà connu et bien organisé de la Marche des dix sous "Dissiper les vieux mythes".

### Mise à jour du projet Caravane

En 1981, le comité de sensibilisation du public a proposé qu'une caravane sillonne la province pendant l'Année internationale des personnes handicapées (AIPH) et fournisse des renseignements aux handicapés sur les programmes et les services qui leur sont offerts, tout en renseignant le public sur les problèmes, préoccupations et possibilités des personnes handicapées.

Le ministère des Affaires culturelles et des Loisirs a adopté la proposition et, le 25 mai 1981, l'exposition itinérante (Caravane), organisée par le Bureau du coordonnateur de l'AIPH, prenait le départ.

Cette exposition, animée par des personnes handicapées, présentait des commentaires enregistrés et visuels de dix personnes ayant différents handicaps. La Caravane s'est rendue dans un certain nombre de villes de l'Ontario.

Étant donné le succès de cette exposition, le Bureau du coordonnateur provincial des services de réadaptation en parrainera en 1982 une version mise à jour. Entre juin et septembre, l'exposition visitera 17 villes de la province. Son but est de fournir des renseignements aux personnes handicapées sur les programmes et les services administrés par le gouvernement de l'Ontario, ainsi que de sensibiliser le public d'une façon générale.

### Partie 5 du Code du bâtiment de l'Ontario

Depuis 1978, le Conseil consultatif insiste pour que des modifications soient apportées au Code du bâtiment de l'Ontario. Il a préparé à cet égard un rapport et l'a adressé à Madame Birch.

Au début de 1980, le Conseil a reçu un exemplaire des modifications à la partie 5 que la Direction du Code du bâtiment se proposait d'apporter relativement aux normes d'accès aux édifices publics. Après avoir étudié ces recommandations, le Conseil les a jugées insuffisantes car les

modifications allaient beaucoup moins loin que celles qu'il avait soumise en 1978.

En juillet 1981, les membres du comité se sont réunis avec un conseiller de la Direction du Code du bâtiment du ministère de la Consommation et du Commerce pour discuter plus amplement les modifications. Le ministère a informé le Conseil que le Code ne s'applique qu'aux bâtiments neufs et à d'importants agrandissements à des bâtiments existants. En raison des nombreuses questions relatives aux modifications du Code que se posaient les membres du Conseil, un comité temporaire a été constitué pour étudier le Code du bâtiment plus en détail.

Le comité est d'avis que les handicapés physiques devraient avoir accès à tous les édifices. En conséquence, la résolution suivante a été adoptée lors d'une réunion du Conseil:

"Le Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques désire que tous les nouveaux édifices de l'Ontario soient conçus pour permettre une entrée et une sortie des personnes handicapées, ainsi que l'ont indiqués ses recommandations présentées à la Direction en 1980."

En août 1981, les membres du comité se sont de nouveau réunis avec un représentant de la Direction du Code du bâtiment pour discuter des exclusions d'édifices recommandées par la Direction. Le comité a fait les recommandations suivantes:

1. Les premières recommandations du Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques devraient être adoptées pour la construction de nouveaux édifices. Si elles ne le sont pas, pourquoi?
2. La Direction du Code du bâtiment devrait commencer la préparation d'illustrations pour aider les entrepreneurs à interpréter les dispositions de la partie 5 relatives à l'accessibilité, ainsi qu'un accord antérieur le prévoit.
3. Ainsi qu'il a été convenu, la Direction du Code du bâtiment devrait réorganiser son propre groupe d'étude parallèlement au Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques, afin de mener une révision permanente du Code du bâtiment.

Ces recommandations ont été envoyées au directeur du Code du bâtiment.

À la mi-septembre 1981, dans sa réponse, la Direction du Code du bâtiment a indiqué qu'elle mènera une étude complémentaire sur un certain nombre des édifices non compris dans les modifications. En réponse à la seconde



(avantage réservé aux handicapés), plus le paiement d'un droit initial de location. Les personnes handicapées peuvent aussi acheter un véhicule grâce à un plan de location-vente. Les paiements se répartissent sur quatre ans et demi et équivalent à l'allocation de mobilité. On exige un dépôt égal à la différence entre la somme des paiements et le coût réel du véhicule.

Le comité sur le transport a étudié la possibilité d'offrir un programme similaire aux handicapés de l'Ontario et a chargé l'École des hautes études commerciales de l'université Queen's de faire une analyse des coûts d'un modèle semblable à l'aide dont disposent les étudiants des collèges et universités, et qui se présente sous la forme conjoinite d'un prêt et d'une subvention. Le Conseil a recommandé à Madame Margaret Birch, qu'une recherche soit effectuée sur un programme similaire au programme britannique Motability en vue d'en déterminer la faisabilité en Ontario.

Le Bureau du coordonnateur provincial des services de réadaptation a étudié le programme et l'a adressé au ministère des Transports et des Communications de façon que celui-ci puisse l'étudier à son tour.

**Règlements municipaux sur le stationnement**

La question des règlements municipaux sur le stationnement réservé aux handicapés retient toujours l'attention du comité. C'est donc avec le plus grand intérêt qu'a été suivi le projet de loi 108 (ancien projet de loi 130), sur les espaces de stationnement réservés aux handicapés physiques. Ce projet de loi prévoit que l'on réserverait un minimum de un pour cent des places de tout parc de stationnement de plus de 25 places aux voitures conduites par des handicapés physiques ou à celles qui les transportent. Il a été présenté à l'Assemblée en première lecture en 1980.

En mars 1981, Madame Birch a demandé au ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales d'étudier plus en détail le projet de loi, en particulier les articles relatifs au stationnement dans la rue et aux places de stationnement réservées pour les handicapés physiques.

Dans sa lettre, Madame Birch indique, entre autres: "Je crois que ce type d'encouragement à l'uniformité est plus approprié qu'une législation fragmentaire et sera d'une grande utilité pour les handicapés physiques de l'Ontario."

Le Bureau des transports en commun du ministère

des Transports et des Communications a préparé un projet de règlement relatif à tous les aspects du stationnement pour les handicapés. Cette question a été discutée avec divers ministères et organismes. Un fonctionnaire du MTC a informé le Conseil consultatif en décembre 1981 que le projet de règlement sera distribué aux municipalités vers l'été 1982 pour qu'elles le sanctionnent et l'appuient.

**Mesures ultérieures**

Le comité continuera de s'occuper des plans et des programmes énoncés ci-dessous:

- Notion de mobilité
- Transport rural
- Formation du conducteur
- Aires de stationnement pour les personnes handicapées
- Situation actuelle des voyages par train et par avion pour les handicapés
- Séminaires pour les spécialistes du domaine de la formation du conducteur
- Programme de recherche visant à trouver des moyens d'améliorer la sécurité des handicapés, passagers et conducteurs.

**Comité de sensibilisation du public et d'accessibilité**

William Hatt, président  
Joseph West, vice-président  
Athol Layton  
Jim Gerrond  
William Watson

*Déléguée auprès du comité:*  
Gillian Kearney

**Programme de sensibilisation dans les écoles**

En 1980, le Conseil consultatif a recommandé que soit encouragé dans le cadre du système scolaire, un programme de sensibilisation destiné à renseigner les enfants sur les besoins et les aptitudes des personnes handicapées.

Madame Margaret Birch a transmis cette recommandation au ministre de l'Éducation, qui l'a accueillie favorablement.

En mars 1981, Madame Bette Stephenson a informé les conseils scolaires que le Conseil consultatif prévoyait créer un "programme de sensibilisation" dans les écoles de l'Ontario. Dans ce but, le Conseil consultatif, en collaboration avec le Bureau du coordonnateur de l'AIPH et le ministère de l'Éducation, ont préparé une "trousse de

le Conseil, qui a demandé au coordonnateur provincial des services de réadaptation, en avril 1981, de mettre à exécution le projet de modifier la formule n° 4. Les discussions portant sur cette révision eurent lieu à la fin du mois de juin, au cours d'une réunion entre le coordonnateur et les représentants du ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires.

En septembre 1981, M. Frank Drea, ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, a annoncé qu'à compter de 1982, on opérerait une fusion de deux catégories de prestataires à savoir les personnes inaptes à l'emploi de façon permanente et les personnes invalides de façon permanente (GAINS D).

## Comité sur le transport

Marian Webb, présidente  
Jack Longman  
Leonard Lotewski

*Délégués auprès du comité:*

Ed Blake  
Rob Barnes  
Lyle Pringle  
Margaret Young  
Gerald Clarke

**Séminaires pour les examinateurs de conduite automobile**

À la suite des séminaires sur la conduite automobile, patronés conjointement par le Conseil consultatif, le centre de soins aux enfants infirmes de l'Ontario et l'Association canadienne pour les paraplégiques, qui se sont déroulés en 1979 et 1980, le ministère des Transports et des Communications (MTC) a demandé au Conseil de préparer des séminaires à l'intention de ses examinateurs de conduite automobile.

Des séminaires pour les examinateurs du MTC sont déroulés avec succès à Thunder Bay, Sudbury et London, au début de 1982. Le comité sur le transport du Conseil en assurait la coordination. Le principal sujet abordé était "Le conducteur ayant un handicap physique".

Un autre séminaire a été demandé dans la région de North Bay, pour le personnel du bureau interne du ministère des Transports et des Communications. Ce séminaire supplémentaire n'est du ressort ni du Conseil consultatif ni de son comité sur le transport. Mes Marian Webb et Margaret Young prévoient donc d'organiser ce séminaire à titre privé.

Le MTC prévoit d'organiser un séminaire annuel à l'intention de ses nouveaux examinateurs de conduite automobile, dans le cadre de son programme d'orientation.

Le comité sur le transport préparera un rapport à l'intention du MTC à partir de son évaluation des séminaires déjà offerts.

## Transport rural

En 1981, le comité a considéré que la question du transport rural était une de ses priorités pour l'année.

En 1980, le Conseil consultatif a exprimé à Madame Margaret Birch, secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales, ses préoccupations relatives aux difficiles conditions de transport pour les personnes handicapées habitant les régions rurales de la province. Le ministère des Transports et des Communications a reçu les recommandations du Conseil relatives aux mesures qui devraient être prises à ce sujet.

Le MTC a fait savoir au Conseil consultatif qu'il élaborait un document de recherche sur le transport des handicapés et que la question du transport rural allait être étudiée à cette occasion.

En 1981, ce comité est resté en relation très étroite avec le ministère des Transports et des Communications, qui préparait un document sur le transport étudiant les programmes et les services de transport pour les handicapés physiques dans les régions rurales. Des représentants du ministère ont rencontré les membres du comité à diverses occasions et ils ont tenu ces derniers au courant de l'avancement du rapport. Le comité est d'avis que si un plan général est adopté, les problèmes que rencontrent actuellement les handicapés en matière de transport rural seront considérablement améliorés.

## Notion de mobilité

En mai 1981, la présidente du comité sur le transport, Marian Webb, a rendu visite à deux organismes britanniques, Motability et Finance Limited, pour obtenir des renseignements sur leurs programmes, qui prévoient des véhicules pour les handicapés.

Grâce à la collaboration de banques, de quelques compagnies d'assurances et de constructeurs d'automobiles, le programme britannique Motability offre d'intéressantes conditions financières, à la fois pour les conducteurs et les passagers âgés de 5 à 59 ans. Ainsi, un handicapé peut avoir l'utilisation d'un véhicule pendant une période de trois ou quatre ans, en échange de son allocation de mobilité



**Comité d'étude sur les besoins particuliers des enfants atteints d'un handicap physique**

Dr William Orr, président

Janice Harris

Beverly Gray

*Députée auprès du comité:*

Margaret McLeod

**Éducation de l'enfant sourd**

L'éducation de l'enfant sourd - en particulier quant aux méthodes de communication, son intégration dans le système scolaire, le diagnostic précoce et le perfectionnement de la formation de ceux qui s'occupent des enfants sourds, ont compté parmi les préoccupations du comité en 1981.

Tout au long de l'année, le comité a rencontré divers experts et représentants des agences pour discuter de ces questions. On notait parmi les invités du comité: Mrs Boshes, coordinatrice des services de réadaptation, Société canadienne de l'ouïe; Roy Wallaston, directeur de l'Ontario School for the Deaf, le révérend Robert Rumball du centre communautaire de Toronto pour les sourds.

Le projet de loi 82, adopté par le gouvernement de l'Ontario en 1981, garantit que les écoles publiques de l'Ontario ne peuvent plus refuser leurs services à un enfant en raison d'un handicap dont il est atteint. Le comité a étudié les incidences de la nouvelle législation lorsque celle-ci touche l'éducation des enfants sourds et continuera de surveiller son application.

**Orthophonie**

Certains enfants handicapés ne peuvent communiquer efficacement avec les autres. Ce problème a retenu l'attention du comité qui a appuyé la résolution suivante, le 24 septembre 1981:

"Que le Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques demande que les services d'orthophonie soient renforcés pour les enfants de la province. Il semble qu'un traitement précoce soit principalement préventif et devrait pouvoir être suivi sans qu'il soit nécessaire d'attendre longtemps, ce qui est actuellement le cas en beaucoup d'endroits de l'Ontario."

**Comité sur l'emploi et la réadaptation**

William Murdoch, président

Dr Albin Jousse

Fernand Dame

Myron Angus

*Député auprès du comité:*

Dr Victor Bennett

**Ateliers**

En avril 1981, un représentant du ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires a discuté avec les membres du Conseil, des buts et des objectifs du ministère pour l'organisation des ateliers. Le ministère a préparé, pour lancer la discussion, un document de travail intitulé "An Analysis of Goals and Objectives of the Workshop System", qui a été transmis au comité pour que celui-ci puisse faire ses commentaires.

Le document présentait les objectifs des ateliers, à savoir l'emploi sur le marché libre du travail, l'offre d'un emploi "protégé" et celle d'une activité professionnelle. Ces objectifs ont été fixés pour répondre au but du ministère; ils aident les handicapés en leur offrant des soins et un moyen d'existence, ou en leur permettant d'être indépendants ou intégrés à la société.

Le comité a conclu que les propositions du ministère semblent en accord avec ses propres recommandations. Le comité prépare actuellement un document précisant sa position sur l'organisation des ateliers, la formation des conseillers en réadaptation professionnelle, les programmes d'action positive et les systèmes de quota. Ce document devrait être prêt pour l'été 1982 de façon que le Conseil puisse en discuter et l'appuyer.

**Formule n° 4 - Rapport médical**

La formule n° 4 - Medical Report in Respect of Impairment - est actuellement utilisée en Ontario pour déterminer l'admissibilité d'une personne, sur le plan médical, au maintien du revenu et à une réadaptation professionnelle.

En février 1979, le Conseil consultatif a proposé au ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires que cette formule soit révisée afin d'améliorer le processus d'évaluation. Dans sa réponse, le ministère a déclaré redéfinir les critères d'admissibilité, à la fois pour les personnes incapables d'emploi ou invalides de façon permanente. Cette question reste un sujet de préoccupation pour



services et des locataires. Les membres du comité se sont montrés très préoccupés par les propositions; ils ont préparé un dossier qu'ils ont envoyé au ministère.

La présidente du comité, Jackie Rodger, a participé aux réunions de consultation du ministère en 1981. Il s'ensuivit une révision des propositions, qui reflète une compréhension plus approfondie des problèmes par toutes les parties.

En décembre 1981, le comité a rencontré les représentants du ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires pour discuter de façon plus approfondie des questions de soins individuels dispensés par un préposé et des différences dans les allocations du régime GAINS reçues par les locataires de différents ensembles domiciliaires. En février 1982, le ministère a assuré le Conseil consultatif que ces problèmes recevraient toute l'attention apportée aux questions relatives aux politiques et que le Conseil recevrait un rapport à la fin de 1982.

Ce comité a également exprimé sa préoccupation quant à un nouvel accord juridique imposé aux projets de services de soutien. Nous avons reçu l'assurance que cette question allait faire l'objet d'un examen. Après la réunion avec les représentants du ministère (bureau régional de Toronto) et les services juridiques, la présidente du comité, Jackie Rodger, a pu informer le Conseil à sa réunion d'avril, que les problèmes avaient été résolus.

### Soins individuels dispensés par un préposé

En 1979, le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires et celui du Logement ont reçu une copie de la définition de "Soins dispensés par un préposé" que lui a donné ce comité, afin qu'ils puissent la réviser et faire leurs commentaires. Cette définition, établie à l'origine en tenant compte des pensionnaires vivant en collectivité, est également valable pour les personnes dont les conditions de logement sont différentes.

Définition de "Soins dispensés par un préposé"

Les soins dispensés par un préposé désignent la prestation de services, 24 heures par jour, selon les besoins d'une personne physiquement handicapée afin que toutes les activités nécessaires de la vie quotidienne puissent être exécutées dans un temps raisonnable.

Ces soins comprennent notamment:

1. L'hygiène personnelle, y compris l'habillage et le déshabillage, le bain, la douche, les soins

### Liste des établissements résidentiels

2. Les soins domestiques, y compris la lessive du linge personnel et de maison, le petit et le grand ménage, le magasinage, la préparation et le service des repas, l'alimentation, l'entretien de l'équipement spécialisé, les déplacements nécessaires pour l'utilisation d'un fauteuil roulant
3. L'aide pour les communications indispensables.

Le comité a mis à jour sa liste des établissements résidentiels pour les personnes handicapées de la province. Cette liste comprend les établissements résidentiels et les logements financés par le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires en vertu de la Loi sur les établissements de bienfaisance et de la Loi sur les foyers pour déficients mentaux, ainsi que les ensembles domiciliaires financés conjointement par le ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement et le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires. Toutefois, les établissements de soins et de réadaptation, à l'exception de Ashby House, sont exclus de la liste. On peut obtenir des exemplaires de cette liste en s'adressant au bureau du Conseil. Une mise à jour de cette liste est prévue chaque année.

### Autres questions dont se soucie le comité

- Le comité a retenu les questions suivantes sur lesquelles il se penchera et pour lesquelles il envisagera une action dans l'avenir:
- Rédaction d'un exposé de principes sur les soins individuels dispensés par un préposé, dans lequel le comité présente sa position sur la question.
  - Étude de l'aide que peut apporter la famille aux handicapés physiques.
  - Encouragement à l'ouverture de services spécialisés dans les établissements pour malades chroniques. Ceci comprend l'élaboration d'une définition des populations de pensionnaires qui ont besoin de ces services, un examen attentif de leurs besoins particuliers et la formulation de recommandations de changements.
  - Étude des méthodes de recrutement, d'orientation et de formation des préposés et évaluation des systèmes actuels visant à satisfaire aux besoins des handicapés en ce qui concerne les services de soutien et de logement.
  - Étude des besoins particuliers des divers groupes d'handicapés en ce qui concerne les services de soutien et de logement.

Comité des services de logement et  
de soutien

Jackie Rodger, présidente  
Jim Gerrond  
Audrey King  
Marian Webb

Prothèses et autres dispositifs

En mai 1976, le Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques a appuyé une résolution selon laquelle le Régime d'assurance-maladie de l'Ontario (OHIP) devrait être modifié de manière à comprendre la fourniture de dispositifs d'aide aux handicapés. Depuis cette date, le Conseil n'a cessé de réclamer une telle modification. Le comité a mené une étude sur la fourniture des dispositifs orthopédiques et autres, à partir d'un échantillonage de 25 handicapés. Une partie des objectifs de l'étude était d'établir par des études de cas, les contraintes d'ordre financier et autres difficultés qu'éprouvent les handicapés qui ont besoin de ces dispositifs.

Lors des réunions du Conseil et des débats publics, de nombreuses agences, organismes et personnes n'ont cessé d'exprimer leurs préoccupations touchant la nécessité d'étendre le régime d'assurance-maladie aux dispositifs orthopédiques et autres qui sont prescrits.

Dans une résolution appuyée par le Conseil consultatif pendant l'Année internationale des personnes handicapées en 1981, les "appareils orthopédiques et dispositifs d'aide aux handicapés" figuraient comme priorité pour l'année.

Le Conseil consultatif a toujours été d'avis qu'un programme pour les dispositifs orthopédiques et autres, lorsqu'il aura cours, devrait être offert à toutes les personnes handicapées, quel que soit leur âge ou leur situation. Le comité a préparé à cet effet un document présentant sa position, que le Conseil consultatif a unanimement appuyé lors de sa réunion de janvier 1982. On peut se procurer un exemplaire de ce document au bureau du Conseil.

En janvier 1982, le ministre de la Santé, M. Dennis Timbrell, a annoncé que le Programme d'aide à l'achat de prothèses et d'autres dispositifs, entrerait en vigueur le 1<sup>er</sup> juillet 1982. Aux termes de ce programme, la province paiera 75 pour cent du coût des prothèses et dispositifs désignés pour les personnes âgées de 18 ans et moins; les 25 pour cent restant seront à la charge de l'utilisateur ou de l'agence.

A l'annonce de ce programme, le Conseil a déclaré, entre autres: "Nous reconnaissons qu'il s'agit là d'un

Progrès, mais nous sommes en même temps très  
dégus que le programme ne touche qu'une partie de  
notre société".

Lors de sa réunion de janvier 1982, le Conseil consultatif a appuyé la résolution suivante, qu'il a adressée à Madame Birch:

"Attendu que le Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques rend hommage au

gouvernement de l'Ontario pour la création d'un programme limite d'aide à l'achat de prothèses et autres dispositifs, programme qui constitue un réel progrès, et

les handicapés physiques adultes, citoyens de l'Ontario doivent toujours se perdre dans le labyrinthe des organismes de bien-être et des oeuvres de bienfaisance, et

ils doivent utiliser au maximum ou réduire les ressources peu importantes dont ils disposent pour faire face aux coûts toujours plus élevés des prothèses et dispositifs indispensables,

il est recommandé qu'AUCUNE PRIORITÉ POUR CES DISPOSITIFS NE SOIT FONDÉE SUR L'ÂGE, LE GENRE OU LA CAUSE DU HANDICAP OU LE NIVEAU DE REVENUS."

Dans sa réponse, Madame Birch rapporte que le nouveau programme visant à aider les personnes de 18 ans et moins à acheter des prothèses et autres dispositifs a été mis en place après une étude longue et approfondie et que cette initiative représente une première étape importante.

En ce qui concerne les recommandations indiquées dans le document du Conseil sur les prothèses et autres dispositifs, Madame Birch déclare, entre autres: "Il est indéniable qu'un programme de portée générale est souhaitable et qu'en conséquence, pendant ses deux premières années, le Programme d'aide à l'achat de prothèses et d'autres dispositifs sera évalué pour déterminer les effets d'une couverture plus grande."

Projets de services de soutien

Au début de 1981, le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires a publié un document intitulé Policy Framework for Support Services Projects. Les propositions qu'il contenait ont été discutées avec les principaux organismes, des fournisseurs de



ensemble pour voir que le legs de l'ALPH est important et qu'il faut en faire la MOISSON. Nous pouvons tous collaborer pour améliorer l'avenir. Je voudrais inviter chacun d'entre vous, chaque groupe, qui désire partager ses idées, à prendre librement contact avec nous. Nous n'avons jamais pensé que le Conseil avait toutes les réponses ou avait même connaissance de tous les problèmes. Nous sommes toujours ouverts à toutes les suggestions des personnes qui travaillent pour les handicapés physiques et avec eux. C'est ensemble que nous construirons des lendemains meilleurs.



Jack W. Longman  
Président

handicapés en Ontario. J'aimerais également remercier Mesdames Szalowski et Tikaram pour tout leur travail et la loyauté dont elles ont fait preuve envers le Conseil et son président.

Nous remercions également très vivement Madame Margaret Birch, ses collègues ainsi que tous les organismes gouvernementaux et les groupes particuliers qui nous ont apporté leur soutien, leurs encouragements et leurs idées.

Je tiens à remercier personnellement les membres du Conseil et particulièrement ceux du comité exécutif, pour le travail qu'ils ont accompli en 1981-1982. Le mandat du vice-président, Bill Watson, s'est terminé à la fin de l'année. Travailler avec lui pendant ces deux ans et demi s'est avéré une expérience extraordinaire. Non seulement il a librement donné de son temps au Conseil, mais il est également devenu un de mes très bons amis.

Voilà pour le passé. Tournons-nous maintenant vers l'avenir - vers les défis qui restent à relever. La meilleure façon d'aller plus loin est de travailler tous



Mille neuf cent quatre-vingt-un fut l'Année internationale des personnes handicapées (AIPH). Elle n'est maintenant plus qu'un souvenir mais qui ne s'estompera pas. Le Conseil consultatif est persuadé que cette année a permis de jeter les bases d'un avenir meilleur pour les handicapés; non seulement en Ontario mais au Canada et dans le monde entier.

Les trois quarts de l'année donnant lieu à la rédaction du rapport de notre Conseil tombent dans les douze mois de l'AIPH. Nous avons planifié cette Année et l'avons beaucoup attendue. Nombreux sont ceux qui, parmi nous, espéraient voir de grands changements. L'Année est maintenant terminée et nous tentons d'en évaluer la portée; nous pourrions même nous demander si nos attentes ont été comblées. Y a-t-il véritablement eu des changements dans la vie des personnes handicapées?

Nombre de politiques et de programmes prévus pour améliorer la vie des handicapés ont certes vu le jour; mais à mon avis, on n'a pas assez tiré parti des occasions offertes par l'AIPH pour sensibiliser l'opinion aux problèmes des handicapés. L'Année a mis en lumière les possibilités qu'ont les handicapés de surmonter leurs problèmes et de prendre leur place dans le cours normal de la vie de la société. Grâce aux différents médias, aux discours et aux interventions de nombre d'entre nous, nous avons pu commencer l'esprit du public. Si nous tous - les handicapés et la communauté dans son ensemble - continuons de cultiver et de soigner ces semences, nous pourrions faire la MOISSON! Nous commençons, je crois, à voir quelques "pousses" dans le secteur de l'accessibilité et de l'attitude du public envers les handicapés physiques.

Il serait intéressant, et cela vaudrait la peine je crois, de regarder ce dont les handicapés disposaient en 1971, ce qui a percé en 1981 et ce que nous prévoyons d'avoir en 1991. Si les changements à venir au cours de la prochaine décennie suivent le même taux de croissance que par le passé, dans dix ans la vie pour les handicapés physiques sera vraiment quelque chose de spécial! Je suis sûr que nous serons presque tous d'accord pour reconnaître qu'il a été accompli plus de choses (bien que pas assez certainement) au cours des dix dernières années que pendant n'importe quelle décennie antérieure.

Notre rapport annuel présente le travail du Conseil et ses objectifs. J'aimerais mentionner quelques-uns des principaux programmes qui ont été entrepris ou se sont développés l'année dernière. Notre Conseil ainsi que de nombreux organismes et groupes

communautaires ont contribué à ce développement. Voici un aperçu de ces programmes:

- Création, à l'intention des enfants de 18 ans et moins, du Programme d'aide à l'achat de prothèses et d'autres dispositifs;
- Révision du Code des droits de la personne de l'Ontario pour que les handicapés y figurent;
- Extension du programme de transport parallèle (auquel participent maintenant plus de quarante collectivités);
- Engagement du ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires à fournir par an cinquante-deux logements neufs avec un service de soins dispensés par un préposé;
- Octroi de subventions Winario pour rendre accessibles des bâtiments de la communauté;
- Adoption du projet de loi 82, rendant accessible les programmes et services d'éducation de l'enfance en difficulté à un plus grand nombre d'enfants handicapés;
- Proposition par le gouvernement de l'Ontario de stimuler les employeurs à embaucher du personnel handicapé.

Pendant l'année écoulée, le Conseil a tenu deux débats publics, l'un à Timmins, l'autre à London. Là encore, il nous a été donné de rencontrer des personnes intéressantes et qui se souciaient de la situation des handicapés; nous avons également reçu un certain nombre d'importantes communications. Nous avons répondu aux questions posées pendant le débat même, ou les avons transmises à un comité du Conseil ou au ministère approprié du gouvernement.

L'année a vu certains changements importants de personnel et de locaux. Le Conseil a emménagé au deuxième étage du 700 de la rue Bay, dans les anciens bureaux du Conseil consultatif des relations civiques et multiculturelles de l'Ontario. Monsieur Gerald Clarke, qui fut notre premier administrateur, est entré au Bureau du coordonnateur provincial des services de réadaptation comme chef des services d'information. Madame Elizabeth Szalowski est maintenant administratrice principale de notre Conseil et du Conseil consultatif sur l'âge d'or. Le rôle de Madame Leila Tikaram, l'adjointe administrative du Conseil, s'est élargi et elle assume maintenant de plus grandes responsabilités. Les membres du Conseil et moi-même en particulier, sommes redevables à Monsieur Clarke d'avoir participé avec autant de dévouement aux travaux du Conseil consultatif. Nous lui souhaitons de réussir dans son nouveau poste où il aura encore de nombreuses occasions d'être au service des

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Le Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques a été constitué le 5 février 1975 par un décret du conseil des ministres approuvé par le lieutenant-gouverneur de l'Ontario. Outre son président et son vice-président, il comprend 19 membres choisis dans toute la province, dont plus de la moitié sont atteints d'un handicap physique. Tous les membres du Conseil ont acquis une certaine expérience auprès des organismes qui s'occupent des handicapés.

Voici le mandat du Conseil:

1. De façon générale, conseiller le secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales sur toute question relative aux handicapés physiques de l'Ontario.

2. De façon plus particulière, mais sans exclure d'autres tâches:

a) identifier et étudier les problèmes des handicapés physiques et faire des

- f) présenter au secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales un rapport annuel des activités et réalisations du Conseil.
- e) informer régulièrement le secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales de l'évolution des activités du Conseil;
- d) examiner les politiques et programmes concernant les personnes atteintes d'un handicap physique;
- c) promouvoir auprès de ces derniers toutes les occasions de participer à des programmes familiaux et communautaires d'entraide;
- b) encourager les citoyens de l'Ontario à exprimer leur point de vue sur toute question relative aux handicapés physiques;
- a) promouvoir auprès de ces derniers toutes les occasions de participer à des programmes familiaux et communautaires d'entraide;
- d) examiner les politiques et programmes concernant les personnes atteintes d'un handicap physique;
- e) informer régulièrement le secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales de l'évolution des activités du Conseil;
- f) présenter au secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales un rapport annuel des activités et réalisations du Conseil.

Membres du Conseil

\* Membres du comité exécutif

* Jack W. Longman, président	WindSOR	Dr Albin T. Jousse	Toronto
* William Watson, vice-président	Keswick	Audrey J. King	Toronto
Myron Angus	Port Stanley	Peter G. Kingsmill (retraite)	Don Mills
Joseph Arway (démisionnaire)	WindSOR	Athol Layton	Toronto
Toby Brooks (retraite)	Ottawa	Leonard Lotcki	Dryden
Fernand Dame	Kapuskasing	William L. Murock	London
Jim GeronD	Toronto	Dr William J. Orr	St. Catharines
Beverly Gray	Ottawa	Jackie Rodger (retraite)	Toronto
Janice Harris	Belleville	* Marian Webb	Kingston
* William Hatt (retraite)	Kingston	Joseph West	St. Catharines

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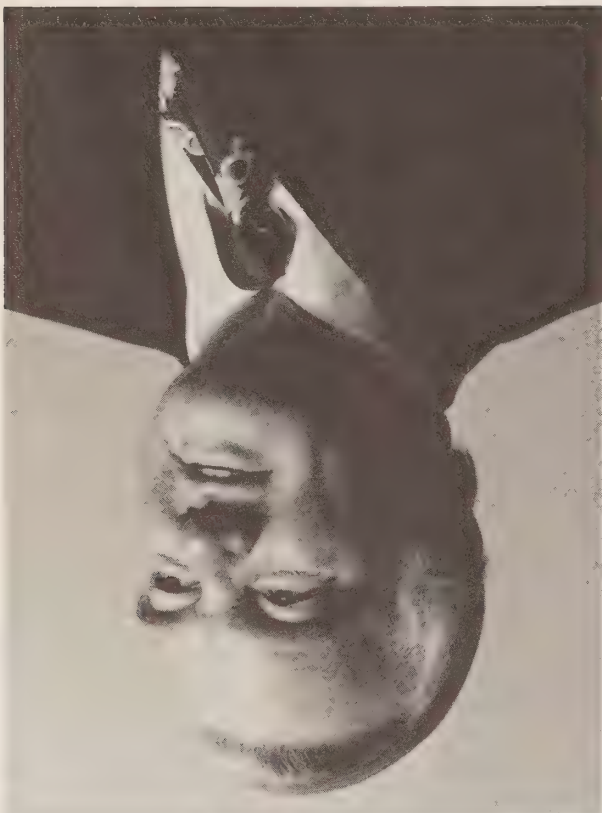
Personnel administratif

Elizabeth Szalowski, administratrice principale  
Gerald F. Clarke, administrateur (mûte)  
Leila B. Tikaram, adjointe administrative





Jack W. Longman  
Président



William Watson  
Vice-président




L'honorable Margaret Birch  
Secrétaire de la province  
aux Affaires sociales

Photo Ashely & Crippen,  
Toronto



**Septième rapport annuel du  
Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario  
sur les handicapés physiques  
pour la période de douze mois  
terminée le 31 mars 1982**

 **Conseil du statut  
de la femme**

Groupe-conseil auprès de la Secrétaire  
de la province aux Affaires sociales







# Septième rapport annuel

Symbole international d'accès



Conseil consultatif  
de l'Ontario  
sur les handicapés  
physiques



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# Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped



International Symbol of Access

## **Eighth Annual Report**





**Eighth Annual Report of the  
Ontario Advisory Council  
on the Physically Handicapped  
for the twelve-month period  
ending March 31, 1983**



**Advisory Council  
on the Physically Handicapped**

Advisory to the Secretary  
for Social Development

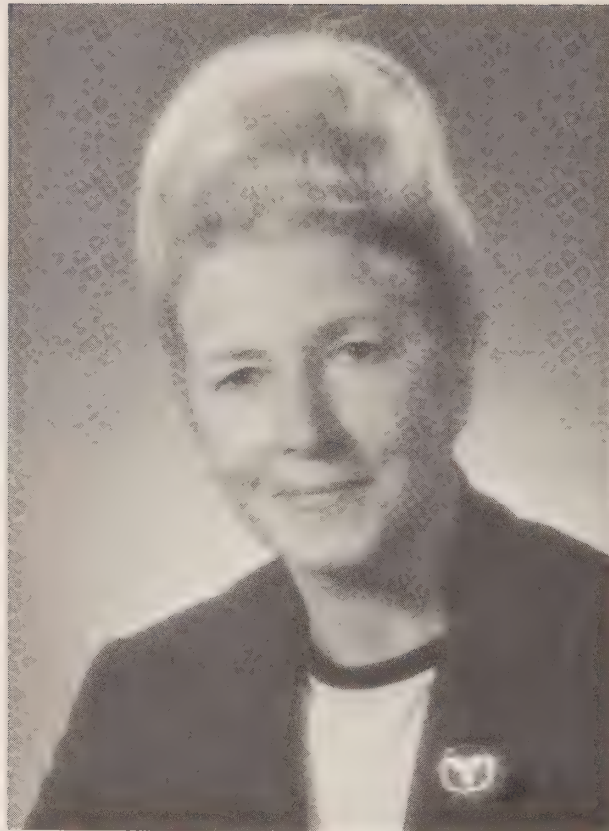


Photo Ashley & Crippen,  
Toronto

The Honourable Margaret Birch  
Provincial Secretary for  
Social Development

Dear Mrs. Birch:

I am pleased to present to you the Eighth  
Annual Report of the Ontario Advisory Council  
on the Physically Handicapped, for the twelve  
month period ending March 31, 1983.

Sincerely,

Jack W. Longman  
Chairman





Jack W. Longman  
Chairman



Audrey J. King  
Vice-Chairman



Joseph West  
Vice-Chairman

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# Organization and aims of the Council

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The Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped was established on February 5, 1975 by an Order-in-Council approved by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. The Council consists of a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen, and 18 members, who are drawn from across the province. Over half of the members are physically handicapped and all possess experience with agencies or organizations working for and with the handicapped.

The mandate of the Council is:

1. To advise the Provincial Secretary for Social Development on matters pertaining to physically handicapped persons in our society.
2. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing:
  - (a) To identify and study issues of concern to physically handicapped persons and, on the

- basis of the knowledge and experience of Council Members, to recommend action where appropriate;
- (b) To encourage residents of Ontario to express their views on matters relating to the physically handicapped;
  - (c) To promote opportunities for self-help for the physically handicapped in the context of the family and community;
  - (d) To review programs and policies affecting physically handicapped persons;
  - (e) To advise the Provincial Secretary for Social Development of progress in the Council's work on a regular basis;
  - (f) To submit to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development an annual report outlining the Council's activities and achievements.

## Membership of the Council

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* Jack W. Longman, Chairman	Windsor	Roy Herbert	Mactier
* Margaret Anderson	Belle River	Dr. Albin T. Jousse	Toronto
Myron Angus	Port Stanley	* Audrey J. King	Toronto
Herbert Berzins	Toronto	Athol Layton	Toronto
Deborah Bignell	Toronto	Leonard Lotecki	Dryden
Fernand Dame	Kapuskasing	* William L. Murdock	London
Jim Gerrond	Toronto	* Dr. William J. Orr	St. Catharines
Karen Glen	Hamilton	Beryl Potter	Toronto
Beverly Gray	Ottawa	William Watson	Sharon
Janice Harris (resigned)	Belleville	* Marian Webb	Kingston
		* Joseph West	St. Catharines
* <b>Executive Committee Members</b>			

## Council Office

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## Staff

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Elizabeth Szalowski, Senior Executive Officer  
Leila B. Tikaram, Administrative Assistant



## Chairman's remarks

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I fully expected that this would be my last message as Chairman of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped. However, as the Council's sunset date was March 31, 1983 and it's operation was extended for one more year, the Honourable Margaret Birch asked me if I would continue as Chairman until March 31, 1984, when sunset laws will apply to *all* three Councils within the Secretariat for Social Development.

The Council's structure was changed during the year 1982-83 to include two Vice-Chairmen, Audrey King and Joe West. Both of them also chaired Council Committees and I am deeply indebted to them for their support and guidance.

The real hard and basic work of the Council is often done in committees. The Chairmen of our five standing committees, along with the members, deserve a great amount of praise and credit for their efforts. As you read through this Annual Report, you will appreciate the accomplishments of the committees and will agree that they are the 'back-bone' of the Council.

Two important position papers were developed this year – a paper on Individual Attendant Care was prepared by the Accommodation and Support Services Committee, and another, on Employment and Rehabilitation of Physically Handicapped Persons was prepared by the Employment/Rehabilitation Committee. Both of these position papers were approved by the Council and submitted to the Government. These papers are available to the public from the Council office.

As the sunset law date for the Council was March 31, 1983 we felt obliged to examine our past endeavours and achievements, as well as look at our future role. To accomplish this we held a two and a half day residential seminar at Geneva Park, Orillia, in May of 1982, and assessed ourselves in an open and thorough manner. We produced a position paper from our deliberations on the Role of the Advisory Council. This has been received by the Provincial Secretary for Social Development. We believe that this paper objectively outlines the Council's role and future, and are hopeful that Mrs. Birch and her colleagues concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

During the past year the Council again reached out into the Ontario community by holding two Public Forums.

In August of 1982 we went to Thunder Bay where, with the assistance of former Council member Dave Koivisto, we held a successful meeting. It was encouraging to learn about the numerous achievements of the handicapped community in

that area. The Council came away with many ideas and thoughts which will benefit our overall work.

The second Public Forum took place in St. Catharines in October 1982. Having two Council representatives in that city – Dr. William Orr and Joe West, this Public Forum could not help but be a success. Again we heard from many groups, organizations and individuals. Again the exchange of experiences and ideas assisted the Council greatly in its deliberations and recommendations to Government.

We are indebted to both the organizing committees in Thunder Bay and St. Catharines for their hard work and hospitality.

My report would be incomplete if I did not thank the staff. The Council's strength depends in many ways on the support provided by our staff, Elizabeth Szalowski, Leila Tikaram and our new secretary Willie Hermann. They have again given so much time and dedication to the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Council members. Thanks so much to all of you for your help. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

When I accepted a re-appointment as Chairman of this Council for another year, my decision was based on my conviction that the Council is a worthwhile body; that it serves the handicapped community of Ontario; and that through it handicapped citizens have a voice to Government. It is my hope that this process will continue and that organizations and groups will feel free to contact us, to tell us their views and thoughts.

The Council is mainly a group of lay persons who are not necessarily experts in all areas. We need and welcome input from people who work both with and for the physically handicapped. In particular, we welcome the views of physically handicapped persons themselves.

I wish to thank Mrs. Birch for her support and for providing me with the opportunity to serve the physically handicapped of this province, as well as for her faith in me as expressed by my re-appointment as Chairman.

We look forward to a challenging and rewarding year for the physically handicapped community of Ontario.



Jack W. Longman  
Chairman

# Major issues studied by Committees and Council, April 1982 - March 1983

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## Accommodation and Support Services Committee

Audrey King, Chairperson  
Margaret Anderson, Co-Chairperson  
Jim Gerrond  
Herbert Berzins  
Beryl Potter

### *Representatives to Committee:*

Jackie Rodger  
Marilyn Noell

### *Committee Guests:*

Jon Kelly  
Ministry of Community and Social Services  
Ted Moses  
Ministry of Community and Social Services  
Mary Earle  
Workers Compensation Board  
Dan McTavish  
Technical Aids and System for the Handicapped Incorporated

## Assistive devices

The Advisory Council continued to urge the Ministry of Health to financially provide for assistive devices as required by many disabled persons, through the Ontario Hospital Insurance Plan. (OHIP).

This Committee studied the financial and other difficulties experienced by handicapped individuals requiring assistive devices. The repeatedly expressed concerns of agencies, organizations and individuals on this issue were augmented by personal interviews with approximately twenty-five disabled individuals. The inclusion of prescribed assistive devices as an insured benefit was recommended.

Early in 1982 a position paper on Assistive Devices was prepared, unanimously endorsed by the Advisory Council, and forwarded to the Minister of Health. This paper, which outlines the present situation and contains recommendations for the future, is available from the Council's office.

In January 1982 the Minister of Health announced that the Ontario Government will pay 75 percent of the cost of designated assistive devices for people 18 years of age and under. The Advisory Council expressed disappointment that the program is

restricted to only one segment of our society and subsequently recommended that no priority for provision of such devices should be based on age, type of disability, cause of disability or level of income.

In response to Council's recommendation, the Honourable Margaret Birch stated that the new program to provide assistive devices to those 18 years and under was undertaken after a careful and lengthy study, and that the initiative represents a significant first step. Mrs. Birch also stated that she understands the concern of the Council regarding this important issue.

The Assistive Devices Program (A.D.P.) became effective in July 1982. An Advisory Committee was established by the Ministry of Health to evaluate the program over the next two years. Equipment covered under the Program includes hearing aids, wheelchairs, orthotics, prosthetics, genito-urinary and ostomy drainage supplies, respiratory equipment and supplies, and medical gases. Because of the complexity of the new program, other equipment and supplies may be phased in over a period of time.

The Advisory Council will continue to monitor the A.D.P. and will also continue to encourage its expansion so that all disabled individuals, regardless of age, disability or income will be included.

## Individual Attendant Care

In 1979 this Committee prepared a definition of Attendant Care which continues to be widely used by agencies and voluntary groups as they develop community services.

The definition included the provision of such services as may be necessary over a 24-hour day period to enable physically handicapped individuals to accomplish necessary activities of daily living within a reasonable time span.

During 1982 the Committee continued to study this issue. In November 1982 a position paper on Individual Attendant Care was prepared. The paper describes the basic essential activities of daily living which are necessary for handicapped individuals in order to function in society. It also describes the services and programs that are currently available to meet such attendant care needs. The following recommendations were outlined:

"Whereas the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped firmly believes that the majority of physically handicapped individuals are capable of di-



recting and controlling their own lives and of accepting responsibilities for the decisions thereof, and,

whereas for many individuals the best solution to a home support services problem is highly individualistic in nature, and,

whereas the availability, in terms of amount and eligibility related to home support services, is widely variable or non-existent throughout the province,

therefore be it resolved that the proposed legislation with regard to home support services include a mechanism to allow for direct payment to individuals in need of services in order for them to design and control a service program peculiar to their individual circumstances."

The position of the Council regarding this issue has remained unchanged: "that a mechanism should be available to allow handicapped individuals in need of attendant care to receive an allowance to meet these needs". It was further recommended in this position paper that the following guidelines be used in the design of such a mechanism:

- "1) That the method of payment be direct to the individual without income testing.
- 2) That eligibility should be open to all handicapped citizens who are permanently disabled to the extent of requiring on-going assistance with activities of daily living and who are capable of directing and supervising such assistance.
- 3) That each person in need of assistance be individually assessed as to the amount of assistance required.
- 4) That the amount of such an allowance should, as a minimum, meet the requirements under the Employment Standards Act as they pertain to live-in Domestic and Nannies, if the individual should choose to have a live-in attendant. At a maximum it could equate to the per diem of Support Service Projects, where individuals with equivalent needs could be selected. For those who wish to employ attendants at an hourly rate, the total maximum could also be the per diem of a Support Service Project, where equivalent individuals are selected. An alternative would be the hourly rate paid within the Support Service Project for attendants with one year or more of service. For individuals whose needs exceed those of individuals within Support Service Projects, the only comparable per diem would be Chronic Care costs minus an amount for room and board.

- 5) That the role of the family should be as chosen by the disabled person and the family."

Supplemental recommendations which should be considered with the above recommendations are:

- "a) That the Ministry of Health encourage the development and funding of training programs relating to the management of one's own attendant care. These programs should be provided in all rehabilitation facilities under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health.
- b) That the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and any other relevant Ministry, prepare a simplified "How to" booklet which outlines the necessary steps and administrative procedures for hiring and terminating attendants. This booklet should be geared to the needs of individuals rather than that of Corporations."

The Individual Attendant Care position paper was unanimously endorsed by the Advisory Council and forwarded to the appropriate Ministries. Copies of the position paper are available from the Council's office.

## **The Role of the Family**

This Committee, during its study of one-on-one attendant care, felt that traditionally the major amount of attendant care delivered to disabled persons in Ontario is provided by family members – most frequently parents and/or spouses.

The Committee began preparation of a position paper on "The Role of the Family". The objective of the paper will be to:

- 1) Recognize the role that family members play in maintaining their disabled member in the community.
- 2) Provide an overview of the supportive services that are available to assist families. (e.g. family relief)
- 3) Make recommendations about what is needed to support and encourage families as they maintain their disabled member.

The Committee intends to develop this paper further during the 1983-84 year.



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## Funding Discrepancies

In September 1982 this Committee met with representatives of the Ministry of Community and Social Services to discuss the issue of funding discrepancies between the various housing and support service projects.

The Committee was told that the Ministry was aware of these discrepancies, and that they were having difficulty in determining how they could most effectively eliminate the discrepancies that now exist.

The Ministry representatives were asked to provide this Committee with specific information relating to the Homes for Retarded Persons Act and the Ministry of Community and Social Services Act. The Committee was told that the Ministry is in the process of preparing a series of recommendations, which they believe might minimize some of the inequity problems.

The Committee will continue its follow-up on this issue.

## Special Needs of Physically Handicapped Children's Committee

Dr. William Orr, Chairman  
Deborah Bignell  
Janice Harris  
Beverly Gray

### *Representative to the Committee:*

Margaret McLeod

### *Committee Guests:*

Dr. Eric Haughton  
Co-ordinator of Early  
Childhood Education  
Loyalist College, Belleville

Maurice Marchand  
Education Officer  
Ministry of Education

Robin Sanford  
Toronto

Bill McGovern  
Toronto

Dorothy Beam  
Toronto

Judy Bowles  
Primary Teacher  
Ontario Crippled Children's Centre

Dr. W. Lotto  
Assistant Medical Director  
Ontario Crippled Children's Centre

Marlene Stein  
Speech Consultant  
Ministry of Health

Keith Whittaker  
Education Officer  
Ministry of Education

Rona Feldtstein  
New Market

Dominic Alfieri  
Ministry of Community and  
Social Services

John Stapleton  
Ministry of Community and  
Social Services

Joe Cashen  
Easter Seal Society

## Handicapped children's benefits

The handicapped children's benefits program was established in 1977, to enable severely handicapped children to live at home and in the community, by assisting parents through a monthly allowance to meet the extraordinary costs arising from the disability.

As a result of concerns expressed about problems experienced by some families who try to obtain the allowance, this Committee met with representatives of the Ministry of Community and Social Services to discuss the matter.

Complaints to the Committee had been that the problems were due to the inconsistency with the administration of the allowance at the local offices, that some case workers had little knowledge of the program, and at times were unwilling to assist families who were unsure of the process involved in getting the allowance. These complaints were drawn to the attention of the Ministry's official.

A representative of the Easter Seal Society, who reported 37 cases relating to problems with the allowance, was asked to document the cases for this Committee.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services has agreed to study the issue, and this Committee will continue to monitor the program.

## Other areas of concern

- Integration of the handicapped child into the regular school system – some children's access to schools have been hindered by the unwillingness of the school to take a handicapped child, and the refusal of some schools to allow an aide to go to the school to help a child with toileting, etc.

It was felt that there should be some transitional classes to move handicapped children into a regular school environment

- Computers and the handicapped child – This Committee visited one of the class rooms at the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre to learn how computers were used to educate the handicapped child. Computers can be modified to a single switch type of operation so as to allow easy access by the handicapped child.
- Speech Therapy – This Committee met with Marlene Stein, Speech Consultant with the Ministry of Health to discuss the provision of speech therapy. It was noted that greater availability of speech therapists will be discussed by a Deputy Ministers' Committee and they might recommend some solution to the problem.
- Special Education Legislation – This Committee met with representatives of the Ministry of Education to discuss the new legislation and its possible effects regarding the education of the deaf and the hard of hearing child.

Some concerns with the present systems were:

- children leaving home at an early age to attend a distant residential school
- lower expectations in education standards
- the desire to have local school boards assume the responsibilities.

## Employment/Rehabilitation Committee

William Murdock, Chairman  
Myron Angus  
Fernand Dame  
Karen Glen  
Dr. Albin Jousse  
Roy Herbert

*Representative to Committee:*

Dr. Victor Bennett

*Committee Guest:*

Chris McMonagle  
Ministry of Labour

Since its inception in 1978 the aims and objectives of the Employment/Rehabilitation Committee have been two-fold:

- 1) To enhance the quality and quantity of employment opportunities for the physically handicapped.
- 2) To improve the effectiveness of rehabilitation services, whether such services are intended to lead directly to employment or to a better quality of life for the disabled person.

## Employment/Rehabilitation Position Paper

The Committee developed a position paper on Employment and Rehabilitation of Physically Handicapped Persons which included a number of specific recommendations relating to the above objectives. The paper was endorsed by the Advisory Council in September 1982 and forwarded to the Honourable Margaret Birch.

This paper is a result of previous Committee recommendations, of concerns raised by Council members, community meetings, information and opinions from concerned organizations and individuals, and briefs received at Public Forums. Three specific areas were dealt with in the paper:

1. Training, Employment and Occupational Workshops for the Physically Handicapped.
2. Training Programs for Vocational Rehabilitation Counsellors.
3. Affirmative Action and Quota System for Employment of Physically Handicapped Persons in Ontario.

## 1. Training, Employment and Occupational Workshops for the Physically Handicapped

"The Advisory Council is on record as supporting the fullest possible integration of the physically handicapped into the mainstream of society. This includes integration with respect to employment training, education, recreational and socializing activities. There is little doubt that most handicapped persons would prefer the financial and social advantages offered by employment in regular business or industry to those offered by workshop settings. However, it must be recognized that for a significant number of physically handicapped persons a specialized workshop program may offer a valuable alternative or the only opportunity for work-related experiences."

The position paper identifies differences between the functional categories of the various workshops, problems being realized, and makes recommendations regarding new approaches to funding and organizing workshop programs.

Some of these recommendations are as follows:

- "a) Workshop programs should be funded on the basis of functional program components of training, employment, and occupation, i.e. specific funding should be made available for each component offered by a program.
- b) Funding should be paid through the Ministry of Community and Social Services to those agencies which are able to provide assessment and/or training services which meet specified standards with respect to content, outcome, facilities, resources and staff capability. Funding should be intended to cover proportionate cost of staff time, facilities, equipment, and resources used specifically in the training component of the program.
- c) For admission to a workshop training program, the following conditions should be met:
  - 1. A vocational rehabilitation counsellor should be assigned to the trainee.
  - 2. A trainee should be eligible for a regular training allowance for the duration of the program, such as Unemployment Insurance, Canada Employment and Immigration, Workmen's Compensation, Ministry of Community and Social Services, or private rehabilitation agency funds.
  - 3. Before beginning the program, the training agency should provide in writing a training plan which should include the nature, extent, content, and expected outcome of the program.

- 4. After the training program has begun, any significant change in the training schedule with respect to time, location, content or planned outcome should be negotiated with the training agency, the trainee, the vocational counsellor, and the funding sources before proceeding with the indicated changes.

- d) The employment component of the workshop program should be placed under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour to ensure that adequate standards for safety and health are maintained. Furthermore, the Ministry of Labour should provide to the employment component, upon request, consulting services to assist in the securing of appropriate employment opportunities or contracts and to ensure that appropriate equipment for the job is obtained.

Finally, the Ministry of Labour should ensure that workers in the employment component of the workshop are paid at least at minimum wages, or that the shop be operated on a co-operative basis.

The need for employment in such a shop demonstrated that some funding should be available either as a grant or as an interest free loan to ensure that appropriate equipment is available and that workers receive at least the minimum wage.

- e) The occupational component of the workshop program is primarily intended to provide a social and recreational outlet as well as, perhaps, some income supplementation. Thus, this component should be treated as a community based service with the community bearing most of the responsibility for the program. If a Provincial Ministry is to be involved, it probably should be the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. The Ministry might provide some funding to start up an occupational program with some assistance in staffing such a program."

## 2. Vocational Rehabilitation Counsellor Training

"To a significant degree, successful employment placement of qualified disabled persons is directly related to the expertise of the counsellor. In previous reports, the Employment and Rehabilitation Committee has pointed out the need for improvement in the quality and quantity of the rehabilitation counselling available to the handicapped. This need continues to become more urgent. If handicapped persons are to become integrated into the mainstream of life in



an increasingly complex world, it is imperative that they be assisted by competent, concerned and highly qualified rehabilitation counsellors.”

The position paper describes the lack of adequate training and experience for vocational rehabilitation counsellors and goes on to make the following recommendations:

“Ultimately, vocational rehabilitation counselling should be established as a separate profession with adequate academic and practical training as has been done in many other countries. However, some interim measures might also be taken to improve the quality of counselling in this field.

- a) The Ministry of Colleges and Universities should encourage the schools of social work in the Province to add to their curriculum courses in vocational rehabilitation counselling for those persons in the professional schools of social work and other disciplines who are planning to go into vocational rehabilitation counselling. Such courses should also be offered on a continuing education basis for those who are already in the field and desire upgrading.
- b) The course in vocational rehabilitation counselling currently being offered jointly by Seneca College and York University, which leads to a BA in psychology should be promoted and expanded. Government agencies should be encouraged to hire graduates of this program in the future to fill positions of vocational rehabilitation counselling. The selection of the right type of person is the sine qua non for success. Background may be highly variable; i.e. nursing, social work, teaching, etc. However the fundamental requirement is concern, the perception of the challenge posed by a disabled person, and the ability to work with and influence people.
- c) Ultimately, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselling should be established as a separate profession through post-graduate university training and practicums. York University has developed a proposal for a Masters level program in vocational rehabilitation counselling. The Ministry of Colleges and Universities should be encouraged to provide the financial assistance necessary to implement this program at the earliest possible opportunity. Such a program will not only provide qualified professional workers in the field, but is essential to provide qualified teachers for future generations of vocational rehabilitation counsellors.”

### 3. Affirmative Action and Quota System for Employment of the Physically Handicapped

The position paper discusses the effectiveness of Affirmative Action and Quota System programs in various countries and the implications of these with respect to Ontario’s employment of the handicapped. Recommendations, which hopefully incorporate the best features of these programs as they could be applied to Ontario are as follows:

- “a) The Government of Ontario should phase in a policy over a three year period not to do business with any company or organization which has not implemented an acceptable hiring policy with respect to the physically handicapped.
- b) The Government of Ontario through a designated Ministry, should require all companies and organizations with 25 or more employees, to establish employer/employee committees to develop acceptable hiring policies for the physically handicapped. These committees should undertake the following steps:
  - i. Analyse all positions in the organization to determine the physical, mental and emotional attributes required for the job.
  - ii. Based on the analysis of positions, establish a quota of handicapped workers for the company.
  - iii. Establish an action plan for achieving the quota within a specified time-frame.
  - iv. Develop a plan to make the work place accessible to handicapped workers.
  - v. Keep the work force and the community informed of the committee’s progress and findings at regular intervals, seeking their input at all times.
- c) The designated Ministry should review the committee’s work and if the action plan is approved, it should be designated as the acceptable hiring policy for the company for purposes of affirmative action.

This combination of Affirmative Action and Quota System enables the employees and employers to work together to establish an appropriate quota for their particular organization. Also, it provides for the education of all the workers and the community with respect to hiring the handicapped. Finally, it enables the Government to take decisive affirmative action on the basis of a plan developed by the people in the company.”

Copies of the position paper on Employment and Rehabilitation of Physically Handicapped Persons may be obtained at the Council’s office.

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## Other areas of concern

The following areas of concern were identified by this Committee as proposed areas of future involvement

- Studying problems related to income and rehabilitation costs and compensations, and the effect that they have, given the diversity of regulations and legislations.
- Designing a program that would provide equal opportunity for compensation for a disability rather than because of the way the disability occurred.
- Discussing the role of recreation in rehabilitation.
- Investigating the problems of addiction amongst the disabled.
- Acquiring more information about the positive and direct use of modern technology, both in rehabilitation and in employment of the handicapped.

## Transportation Committee

Marian Webb, Chairperson  
Jack Longman  
Leonard Lotecki

### *Representatives to Committee:*

Ed Blake  
Margaret Young  
Rob Barnes  
Gerald Clarke

### *Committee Guests:*

Bob Waterhouse  
Co-ordinator  
Rehabilitation Services  
  
Barbara Dunn  
National Safety Chairperson  
Canadian Airline Flight Attendants Association

Cathy Bishop  
Air Canada

Chris Poon  
Ministry of Transportation and  
Communications

John Wilkes  
Ministry of Transportation and  
Communications

David Stern  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs  
and Housing

Brian Ferguson  
Air Canada

## Rural Transportation

This Committee has in the past expressed great concerns about inadequate transportation facilities for the disabled in rural areas of the province. Recommendations for action on this matter were forwarded to the Ministry of Transportation and Communications in 1980.

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications prepared a 'Transportation Paper' dealing with transportation programs and services for the disabled in rural areas. The matter is still under active review by the Ministry, and the Committee was informed that a cabinet submission is in the process of being prepared. To-date, the Committee has heard of no further action.

This issue continues to be one of high priority for this Committee.

## Motability

Early in 1981 Council's Transportation Committee Chairperson, Marian Webb, visited two British organizations, (during her vacation) to seek information about their programs which provide vehicles to disabled persons who are either drivers or passengers.

The Committee examined the feasibility of providing a similar program for the disabled in Ontario. The Advisory Council then recommended to the Honourable Margaret Birch that a program similar to the British concept be researched with a view to implementation in Ontario.

The Council's recommendation was forwarded to the Ministry of Transportation in 1982 for their consideration. There has been no further response at this time.

## Licence Plates

In November 1982 the Minister of Transportation and Communications announced the issuance of licence plates which display the international disabled symbol, for use by handicapped drivers and by those who transport handicapped persons.

Council's Transportation Committee was concerned that the plates might "label" vehicles belonging to handicapped persons and thus leave them open to physical attack or vandalism to their cars.

The application form used to obtain the licence plates was also of concern to this Committee.



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Eligibility for the plates is open to anyone using even minor mobility aids, and has been subject to differing interpretations in the issuing offices across the Province.

As a result of this Committee's concern, the following motion was unanimously endorsed by the Advisory Council and forwarded to the Honourable Margaret Birch for her transmittal to the Minister of Transportation and Communications (M.T.C.):

"that the Advisory Council write to the Honourable Margaret Birch, expressing concern over the wording of the application form regarding licence plates for the disabled and the lack of consultation by M.T.C. with the Advisory Council, and

that the Council is concerned that the disabled licence plates might displace the parking permits issued by Municipalities, and

that the Council would like the opportunity to discuss this issue further with M.T.C."

In January 1983 the Minister of Transportation and Communications responded to Council's concern, stating that the introduction of the licence plates is a direct response to a number of requests they have received from physically disabled persons and organizations. The Council was informed that the Ministry recognizes the fact that while some people may prefer the flexibility of the options provided by the "standard card" or "placard" others will want the permanency of the special licence plates.

The Ministry will maintain a supply of the plates for those who choose this particular option, and applicants will be issued an information sheet explaining that the plates do not automatically entitle the owners to special parking privileges.

The Ministry expressed willingness to meet with the Advisory Council to discuss this issue further.

The Committee plans to monitor the matter of special licence plates.

### **Driver Examiner Seminars**

During 1982 this Committee co-ordinated a second series of seminars for the Ministry of Transportation and Communications' (M.T.C.) driver examiners. These seminars were held in Thunder Bay, Sudbury and London and were considered successful.

The Committee subsequently received a request to co-ordinate a seminar for the inside office staff in the M.T.C. North Bay area. Since it was not within the mandate of either the Advisory Council or the Transportation Committee, Ms. Marian Webb and Ms. Margaret Young undertook this project on a private basis.

### **Parking By-laws**

In April 1982, a representative of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications informed this Committee that they had prepared a discussion paper dealing with the issue of "on-street" and "off-street" parking.

The Committee was told that the paper which was referred to as "a model by-law" was distributed to various Ontario municipalities for their endorsement and support. Some municipalities responded favourably to the paper while others were reluctant because of local problems.

The Committee plans to monitor this issue, and hopes that the disabled community will encourage their municipalities and help them to understand the "on-street" and "off-street" parking needs of physically handicapped persons.

### **Air Transportation**

In April 1982 concerns were expressed to the Transportation Committee by some handicapped individuals about the handling of "Amigos"\* by airline staff.

The Committee met twice with representatives of Air Canada to discuss the concerns, and it was suggested that a training session needs to be conducted for Air Canada employees in order to better familiarize them with the special needs of handicapped passengers, and with new equipment as it becomes available.

A familiarization program was to be conducted during the latter part of 1982. No further concerns regarding this matter have been expressed to this Committee.

\*A 3-wheeled motorized scooter



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## Access Committee

Joseph West, Chairman  
William Watson  
Leonard Lotecki  
Janice Harris  
Beverly Gray

### *Representative to Committee:*

Gerald Clarke

### *Committee Guests:*

Hart Frank  
Building Code Branch  
Ministry of Consumer and  
Commercial Relations  
Gerry Lucas  
Ontario March of Dimes  
John Southern  
Blind Organization of Ontario  
with Self-Help Tactics  
Joan Beatty  
Canadian Hearing Society  
Peter Hanrahan  
Canadian Paraplegic Association  
Susan Partridge  
Persons United for Self Help  
David Baker  
Advocacy Resource Centre for  
the Handicapped

In April 1982 Council's Committee on Public Awareness and Accessibility was divided into one standing Committee and one Ad Hoc Committee.

The Access Committee, being the standing committee, met on April 30, under the chairmanship of Joseph West. The retrofitting of existing buildings, and the development of better access for the handicapped were discussed.

In June the Committee met with a representative of the Ontario Architects Association to seek continued liaison with this Association. (A representative of the Association was subsequently appointed to serve as a non-council member on this Committee.)

The Committee continued to press for action by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations; Building Code Branch, and made several attempts to meet with the Branch.

In December 1982 a special meeting was held by the Building Code Branch. Representatives of various agencies and organizations, including the Advisory Council, were invited to that meeting. The major purpose of the meeting was to establish a

strategy for determining the nature and priorities for further amendments to the Building Code. Further meetings were held in this regard.

Council's Committee on Access is actively involved with the Building Code Branch (now under the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing) in its deliberations regarding amendments to the Building Code Act. It is hoped that the new Ministry will give priority to the very important issue of accessibility.

This Committee will continue to follow-up on this issue.

## Other Areas of Council's Involvement

### April 1982 - March 1983

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#### Public Forums

Since the inception of the Advisory Council in 1975 ten public forums have been held. Two of these were held during 1982 – one in Thunder Bay and the other in St. Catharines.

A total of 23 written briefs were received by the Council at both the forums held in 1982. Some of the concerns expressed in the briefs included urban parallel transportation; attendant care; provision of residential housing accommodation; lack of professional speech and language services for handicapped children in the Niagara Region; recreation for the disabled and employment.

The issues brought before the Council at the forums were informative. The knowledge gained and the concerns expressed were forwarded to each of the appropriate standing committees of Council for their study and necessary action. A summary of the forums and copies of the briefs were also sent to the various provincial ministries.

Public Forum reports are available at the Council's office.

#### Access to Legal Services

In June 1982, the Honourable Roy McMurtry announced that a study would be undertaken to determine what access to legal services was available for the physically and mentally handicapped in Ontario.

Through the Honourable Margaret Birch, the Advisory Council was provided with the terms of reference and was asked for observations regarding the study.

Council's Executive Committee members reviewed the terms of reference for the study and provided the following comments:

- "It is an important area that warrants to be looked at. However, it was felt that the terms of reference were too broad.
- The Advisory Council should meet with Judge Rosalie Silberman Abella to further discuss the issue.
- The handicapped should not have separate legal services. The already available system should be made accessible to them.
- Legal counselling should be made available to the handicapped in their homes in addition to office visits.
- There is a need for integrating the handicapped into the regular legal system."

The above comments, together with some actual cases of handicapped individuals and problems relating to the legal system, were forwarded to Judge Abella.

In October 1982 some Council members visited the Lincoln County Court House in St. Catharines, then under construction. Those who visited the court house found that the parking spaces designated for the handicapped were too steep, especially for a person in a wheelchair.

There were a number of oversights with regard to the construction of the court house, and it was obvious that sight and/or hearing impaired persons were not taken into consideration when the building's accessibility plans were being developed. Council members felt that the court house should have gone beyond the minimum requirements of the Ontario Building Code.

In November 1982, Judge Abella responded to the above concerns as expressed by Council. She stated: "I have been in touch with the Attorney General requesting a copy of the Ministry's policy towards accessibility in new court facilities. It is obvious that we will have to look closely at the provisions of the Ontario Building Code to determine whether enough is being done to make new court facilities accessible."

#### Michigan Commission on Handicapper Concerns

Early in 1982 Council Chairman Jack Longman received a request from the Michigan Commission on Handicapper Concerns, Lansing, Michigan, to meet with this Advisory Council. They were interested in exchanging ideas and learning how this Council functions.

A meeting was held in May 1982 in Windsor with representatives of the Commission and local representatives of the Advisory Council. Also at that meeting were representatives of the Ontario March of Dimes, Participation Industries and the Children's Rehabilitation Centre in Windsor.

At the meeting, Mr. Longman gave a brief outline of the structure of the Council and its achievements. He also talked about some of the concerns which the Council has had regarding issues relating to the disabled.

The meeting was told that the Commission functions as a state-wide advocacy agency on all issues affecting Michigan handicappers.\* They do not provide direct client services. The Commission is housed within the Michigan Department of

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Labour, and is comprised of 21 members and approximately ten staff persons.

Representatives from the Commission who attended the meeting in Windsor expressed a keen interest to further meet with the full Council. The Advisory Council provided time on its July 1982 agenda to meet with the Commission in Toronto. However, this opportunity could not be met by the Commission due to unforeseen circumstances.

\*physically handicapped persons

### **Special Education**

During the year 1982, Janice Harris represented this Council on the Special Education Advisory Council of the Ministry of Education. Mrs. Harris attended the Special Education's meetings and kept Council members updated on pertinent issues discussed at those meetings.

### **Income Insurance for the Disabled**

In November 1982, David Baker, Executive Director, Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped, met with the Advisory Council and spoke of some of the problems experienced by the disabled regarding income insurance and rehabilitation insurance.

Mr. Baker told the Council that a Committee comprised of representatives of some agencies and organizations met on a number of occasions to discuss this issue. A preliminary report was prepared by that Committee and presented to Persons United for Self-Help. A copy of the report was also made available to this Advisory Council.

The paper dealt with major difficulties with the present system of providing income maintenance for disabled individuals, and suggested alternative to the present structure.

Council's Committee on Employment and Rehabilitation plans to meet with Mr. Baker to further discuss some aspects of the preliminary report.



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## **Ad Hoc Committee on Income Tax Laws - Re the Physically Handicapped**

Joseph West, Chairman  
Jack Longman

### *Representatives to Committee:*

Toby Brooks  
Jim Nicol  
Martin Kovnats

Since 1980 this Committee has recommended changes in the Ontario tax system which would be of benefit to disabled persons.

Several meetings were held during 1981 with representatives of the Ministry of Treasury and Economics to discuss Council's concerns relating to the personal income tax law and the disabled.

In October 1982 the Committee again met with the Ministry and reiterated its concerns regarding the tax system and its application to the non-discretionary spending forced on handicapped individuals by virtue of their being disabled. The Council discussed ways in which the tax system could be applied to bring recognition to those 'necessary extra expenditures'.

While this Committee realizes that income tax is under the jurisdiction of the federal government, it will continue working with and making recommendations to the provincial government, which in turn can relay them to the Government of Canada.

# Council's Guests . . . 1982-1983

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Meeting Dates	Guests
April 1982	Ron Smith, Ministry of Labour's Task Force on Employers and Disabled Persons
July 1982	Brian Wilson Augmentative Communication Service Ontario Crippled Children Centre  Joe Coughlin Public Relations Equal Employment Program, The Municipality of Metro Toronto
November 1982	The Honourable Larry Grossman Minister of Health  Paul Donoghue Executive Co-ordinator Ministry of Health  Glen Heagle Executive Co-ordinator, Special Corporate Projects Ministry of Health  Harriet Wolman Special Assistant Ministry of Health  Sita Ramanujam Manager Handicapped Discrimination Unit Ontario Human Rights Commission  David Baker Executive Director Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped

Dates des réunions Invités

Avril 1982	Ron Smith Groupe de travail sur les employeurs et les handicapés Ministère du Travail
Juillet 1982	Brian Wilson Augmentative Communication Service Ontario Crippled Children Centre Joe Coughlin Relations extérieures Programme d'égalité des chances d'emploi Municipalité de la Communauté urbaine de Toronto
Novembre 1982	L'honorable Larry Grossman Ministre de la Santé Paul Donoghue Coordonnateur général Ministère de la Santé Glen Heagle Coordonnateur général Projets spéciaux du ministère Ministère de la Santé Harriet Wolman Adjointe spéciale Ministère de la Santé Sita Ramamujam Chef de service Discrimination envers les personnes handicapées Commission ontarienne des droits de la personne David Baker Directeur général Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped



# Comité temporaire sur les lois touchant l'impôt sur le revenu et les handicapés physiques

Joseph West, président  
Jack Longman

*Délégués auprès du comité :*

Toby Brooks

Jim Nicol

Martin Kovnats

Depuis 1980, le comité recommande la modification du régime fiscal de l'Ontario en faveur des personnes handicapées.

Plusieurs réunions ont été organisées en 1981 avec les représentants du ministère du Trésor et de l'Économie pour examiner les préoccupations du Conseil à propos des lois régissant l'impôt sur le revenu des particuliers et de ses effets sur les handicapés.

En octobre 1982, le comité s'est de nouveau réuni avec les représentants du ministère et a réitéré ses préoccupations à propos du régime fiscal et du traitement des dépenses obligatoires auxquelles doivent faire face les handicapés en raison de leur invalidité. Le Conseil a examiné différentes méthodes qui permettraient au système fiscal de tenir compte de ces "dépenses supplémentaires" nécessaires.

Bien que le comité sache parfaitement que les questions fiscales relèvent du gouvernement fédéral, il continuera à s'entretenir avec le gouvernement provincial et à lui présenter des recommandations que ce dernier pourra transmettre au gouvernement du Canada.

Enfance en difficulté

Au cours de l'année 1982, Janice Harris représentait le Conseil au Conseil consultatif sur l'enfance en difficulté du ministère de l'Éducation. Mme Harris a pris part aux rencontres sur l'enfance en difficulté et a tenu les membres du Conseil au courant des questions importantes discutées lors de ces rencontres.

Les représentants de la Commission expliquèrent que ses fonctions sont de défendre les intérêts des handicapés\* de tous l'État du Michigan et qu'elle s'intéresse à toutes les questions les concernant. La Commission n'offre pas de services directement à ses clients. La Commission est installée dans les locaux du ministère du Travail du Michigan et elle compte 21 membres et un personnel d'environ dix personnes.

Les représentants de la Commission qui participèrent à la réunion tenue à Windsor ont exprimé le vif désir de s'entretenir avec le Conseil au complet. Le Conseil consultatif réserva le temps nécessaire pour s'entretenir avec la Commission à Toronto en juillet 1982, mais des circonstances imprévues n'ont pas permis aux représentants de la Commission de venir à Toronto.

\* personnes handicapées physiques

Assurance-revenu pour les personnes handicapées

David Baker, directeur général de l'Advocacy Resource Center for the Handicapped, a discuté en novembre 1982 avec le Conseil consultatif de certaines des difficultés éprouvées par la personne handicapée en ce qui concerne l'assurance-revenu et l'assurance-réadaptation.

M. Baker a dit au Conseil qu'un comité composé de délégués de certains organismes et organisations s'était réuni à quelques reprises pour discuter de cette question. Ce comité a rédigé un rapport préliminaire et l'a présenté au Persons United for Self-Help. Un exemplaire de ce rapport a aussi été remis au Conseil.

Le document faisait état des difficultés majeures du système actuel de maintien du revenu aux personnes handicapées et présentait des alternatives à la formule actuellement en vigueur.

Le comité du Conseil sur l'emploi et la réadaptation entend discuter davantage de certains points du rapport avec M. Baker.

## Débats publics

Depuis la création du Conseil consultatif en 1975, dix débats publics ont eu lieu. Ils furent au nombre de deux en 1982 et se déroulèrent l'un à Thunder Bay et l'autre à St Catharines.

À l'occasion de ces deux débats tenus en 1982, le Conseil a reçu 23 mémoires au total. Parmi les préoccupations exprimées dans les mémoires, citons le transport urbain parallèle, les soins dispensés par un préposé, l'offre de logements, l'insuffisance des services professionnels d'orthophonie et de langue pour les enfants handicapés de la région de Niagara, les loisirs pour les handicapés et l'emploi.

Les questions portées devant le Conseil lors des débats publics ont fourni des renseignements très intéressants. Les renseignements obtenus et les préoccupations exprimées ont été communiqués au comité permanent du Conseil approprié afin qu'il les étudie et prenne les mesures qui s'imposent. Un résumé des débats et des exemplaires des mémoires ont également été envoyés aux ministères concernés. On peut se procurer les rapports sur les débats publics au bureau du Conseil.

## Accès aux services juridiques

En juin 1982, M. Roy McMurtry a annoncé qu'une étude serait entreprise pour déterminer dans quelle mesure les handicapés physiques et mentaux de l'Ontario avaient accès aux services juridiques. Par l'intermédiaire de Madame Margaret Birch, le Conseil consultatif a été informé des paramètres de l'étude et a été prié de faire part de ses commentaires à ce propos.

Après examen, les membres du comité exécutif du Conseil ont fait les observations suivantes :

- "Cette question est très importante et mérite qu'on l'examine en profondeur. Cependant les paramètres ont paru beaucoup trop vastes.
- Le Conseil consultatif devrait s'entretenir avec le juge Rosalie Silberman Abella à propos de cette question.
- Il est inutile que les handicapés aient leurs propres services juridiques. Il suffit que le système en place leur soit accessible.
- Les handicapés devraient pouvoir bénéficier de services de conseils juridiques non seulement au cabinet du conseiller mais aussi à domicile.

— Il faut intégrer les handicapés dans le système juridique normal." Les observations ci-dessus, ainsi que quelques exemples de cas réels touchant des handicapés et de difficultés associées au système juridique, ont été envoyés au juge Abella.

En octobre 1982, des membres du Conseil ont visité le palais de justice du comité de Lincoln à St Catharines qui était alors en cours de construction. Ils ont constaté que les aires de stationnement réservées aux handicapés étaient en pente trop forte, surtout pour le déplacement en fauteuil roulant.

La construction du palais de justice n'a pas toujours été bien pensée et il est évident que, lors de la préparation des plans d'accessibilité, il n'a pas été tenu compte des malvoyants ni des malentendants. Les membres du Conseil ont considéré qu'il aurait fallu dépasser les exigences minimales prévues par le Code du bâtiment de l'Ontario lors de la construction du palais de justice.

En novembre 1982, le juge Abella répondit aux préoccupations ci-dessus exprimées par le Conseil. Elle déclara : "Je me suis adressée au Procureur général pour lui demander un exemplaire de la politique du ministère relative à l'accessibilité aux nouveaux palais de justice. Il est évident que nous devons examiner de près les dispositions du Code du bâtiment de l'Ontario pour déterminer si toutes les mesures appropriées sont prises pour que les nouveaux palais de justice soient accessibles."

## Michigan Commission on Handicapper Concerns (Commission du Michigan sur les handicapés)

Au début de 1982, le président du Conseil, M. Jack Longman, a reçu de la Michigan Commission on Handicapper Concerns de Lansing au Michigan une demande d'entretien avec le Conseil consultatif. Leur but était d'échanger des idées et d'apprendre comment le Conseil fonctionnait. Une réunion fut organisée à Windsor au mois de mai 1982 avec les représentants de la Commission et les représentants locaux du Conseil consultatif. Participèrent également à cette réunion des représentants de la Marche des dix sous de l'Ontario, de Participation Industries et du Centre de réadaptation des enfants de Windsor.

M. Longman donna un bref aperçu de la structure du Conseil et de ses réalisations. Il a également évoqué quelques-unes des préoccupations du Conseil à propos de questions touchant les handicapés.



Comité sur l'accessibilité

Joseph West, président  
William Watson  
Leonard Lotcki  
Janice Harris  
Beverly Gray  
Délégue auprès du comité :  
Gérald Clarke

Invités du comité :

Hart Frank  
Direction du Code du bâtiment  
Ministère de la Consommation et  
du Commerce  
Gerry Lucas  
Marche des dix sous de l'Ontario  
John Southern  
Blind Organization of Ontario  
with Self-Help Tactics  
Joan Beatty  
Société canadienne de l'ouïe  
Peter Hanrahan  
Association canadienne des parapégiques  
Susan Patridge  
Persons United for Self-Help  
David Baker  
Advocacy Resource Centre for  
the Handicapped

En avril 1982, le comité de sensibilisation du public  
et d'accessibilité s'est scindé en deux de sorte qu'il  
existe maintenant un comité permanent et un  
comité temporaire.

Le comité sur l'accessibilité, soit le comité permanent,  
s'est réuni le 30 avril sous la présidence de Joseph  
West. Il y a été question du réaménagement des  
bâtiments existants et de l'amélioration des voies  
d'accès pour les handicapés.

En juin, le comité s'est entretenu avec un  
représentant de l'Association des architectes de  
l'Ontario dans le but d'établir un contact permanent  
avec cette association. Un représentant de  
l'association qui n'est pas membre du Conseil a été  
affecté à ce comité.

Le comité a continué à faire pression pour obtenir  
des décisions du ministère de la Consommation et  
du Commerce ainsi que de la Direction du Code du  
bâtiment et plusieurs tentatives ont été faites pour  
avoir un entretien avec les représentants de la  
Direction.

En décembre 1982, une réunion extraordinaire a  
été organisée par la Direction du Code du bâtiment  
Les représentants des divers organismes, y compris  
du Conseil consultatif, ont été invités à participer à  
cette réunion. L'objet principal de cette réunion  
était de mettre au point une stratégie qui  
permettrait de déterminer la nature des nouveaux  
amendements à apporter au Code du bâtiment et  
l'ordre de priorité de ces amendements. D'autres  
réunions ont été tenues à ce propos.

Le comité sur l'accessibilité collabore étroitement  
avec la Direction du Code du bâtiment (qui relève  
maintenant du ministère des Affaires municipales et  
du Logement) en ce qui concerne les délibérations  
relatives aux amendements à apporter à la Loi sur  
le Code du bâtiment. On espère que le nouveau  
ministère accordera la priorité à la question de  
l'accessibilité qui est d'une importance capitale.  
Le comité continuera à suivre cette question.

personnel de bureau du M.T.C. de la région de North Bay. Étant donné que cela n'est pas prévu dans le mandat du Conseil consultatif ni dans celui du comité sur le transport, Mme Marian Webb et Mme Margaret Young ont accepté de s'occuper de ce projet à titre privé.

### Règlements municipaux sur le stationnement

En avril 1982, un représentant du ministère des Transports et des Communications a fait savoir au comité qu'un document d'étude avait été préparé et portait sur le stationnement dans la rue et hors de la rue.

Le comité a été informé que le document constituait "un règlement type" qui avait été distribué à diverses municipalités de l'Ontario afin d'obtenir leur approbation et leur appui. Certaines municipalités ont donné une réponse favorable mais d'autres ont hésité en raison de difficultés locales.

Le comité compte suivre l'évolution de cette question et espère que les handicapés physiques feront pression sur leurs municipalités et les aideront à comprendre les besoins des personnes handicapées physiques en la matière.

### Transport aérien

En avril 1982, certains handicapés physiques ont fait connaître leur inquiétude au comité sur le transport à propos de la manutention du véhicule "Amigos" par le personnel des compagnies d'aviation.

Le comité s'est entretenu à deux reprises avec des représentants d'Air Canada pour examiner la question et il a été proposé que des séances de formation soient organisées à l'intention des employés d'Air Canada afin de les familiariser avec les besoins propres aux passagers handicapés et avec le nouvel équipement à mesure qu'il arrive sur le marché.

Un programme de familiarisation était prévu pour la fin de 1982. Le comité n'a pas reçu d'autres plaintes à ce sujet.

\*Véhicule motorisé à 3 roues

Le ministère des Transports et des Communications a préparé un document de recherche portant sur les programmes et services de transport à l'intention des handicapés habitant les régions rurales. Le ministère s'occupe toujours de la question et le comité a appris que le cabinet serait saisi d'un document qui est actuellement en cours de préparation. À la connaissance du comité, aucune autre action n'a été prise à ce jour.

Cette question continue à figurer en tête des priorités du comité.

### Notion de mobilité

Au début de 1981, durant ses vacances, la présidente du comité sur le transport, Marian Webb, a rendu visite à deux organismes britanniques pour obtenir des renseignements sur leurs programmes, programmes qui consistent à fournir des véhicules aux handicapés, qu'ils soient conducteurs ou passagers.

Le comité a examiné la possibilité de lancer un programme analogue à l'intention des handicapés de l'Ontario. Le Conseil consultatif a ensuite recommandé à Madame Margaret Birch qu'un programme s'inspirant du système britannique soit examiné afin de déterminer s'il est réalisable en Ontario.

La recommandation du Conseil a été adressée au ministère des Transports en 1982 pour qu'il l'étudie à son tour. À ce jour, le ministère n'a pas fait part de ses réactions.

### Plaques d'immatriculation

En novembre 1982, le ministère des Transports et des Communications a annoncé que des plaques d'immatriculation portant le symbole international des handicapés seraient à la disposition des conducteurs handicapés et de ceux qui transportent des handicapés.

Les membres du comité sur le transport s'inquiétaient du fait que les plaques permettaient d'identifier les véhicules appartenant à des handicapés, ce qui accroîtrait le risque d'attaque contre eux et de vandalisme contre leurs véhicules.

Le comité a jugé que les formulaires de demande de plaques d'immatriculation devraient être modifiés. En effet, le droit à ces plaques spéciales est accordé même à ceux qui n'utilisent que des dispositifs mineurs pour faciliter leur mobilité et le droit aux plaques a fait l'objet d'interprétations contradictoires dans les bureaux émetteurs de la province.

### Séminaires pour les examinateurs de conduite automobile

Au cours de 1982, le comité a coordonné une deuxième série de séminaires à l'intention des examinateurs de conduite automobile du ministère des Transports et des Communications (M.T.C.). Ces séminaires très réussis ont eu lieu à Thunder Bay, Sudbury et London.

Par la suite, le comité a reçu une demande de coordination d'un séminaire à l'intention du

Le comité compte en suivre l'évolution.

Le ministère a précisé qu'il est disposé à s'entretenir avec le Conseil consultatif pour approfondir cette question.

Le ministère a prévu un stock de plaques d'immatriculation pour ceux qui préfèrent cette option. Des renseignements seront remis aux personnes qui en font la demande afin qu'elles sachent que les plaques ne confèrent pas d'office au propriétaire du véhicule des droits préférentiels en matière de stationnement.

Le ministère a précisé qu'il est disposé à s'entretenir avec le Conseil consultatif pour approfondir cette question.

En janvier 1983, le ministre des Transports et des Communications a répondu au Conseil et précisé que les plaques d'immatriculation spéciales ont été offertes pour répondre à un certain nombre de demandes reçues par le ministère en provenance de personnes physiquement handicapées et d'organismes les représentant. Le Conseil fut informé que le ministère comprend que certains préfèrent les options de "la carte standard" ou de la "carte municipale", mais que d'autres préfèrent la solution permanente qu'offrent les plaques d'immatriculation spéciales.

Le ministère a prévu un stock de plaques d'immatriculation pour ceux qui préfèrent cette option. Des renseignements seront remis aux personnes qui en font la demande afin qu'elles sachent que les plaques ne confèrent pas d'office au propriétaire du véhicule des droits préférentiels en matière de stationnement.

Le ministère a précisé qu'il est disposé à s'entretenir avec le Conseil consultatif pour approfondir cette question.

Par suite, la motion suivante a été adoptée à l'unanimité par le Conseil consultatif et adressée à Madame Margaret Birch pour qu'elle la transmette au ministère des Transports et des Communications (M.T.C.) :

"que le Conseil consultatif écrive à Madame Margaret Birch pour lui exprimer son inquiétude à propos de la rédaction du formulaire de demande de plaques d'immatriculations à l'intention des handicapés et du défaut de consultation du Conseil consultatif par le M.T.C. et



ou organismes qui n'auraient pas adopté une politique d'embauche des handicapés physiques qui soit acceptable.

b) Par l'intermédiaire d'un ministère qu'il désignerait, le gouvernement de l'Ontario devrait exiger que toutes les sociétés et organismes comptant au moins 25 employés créent un comité employeur/employés chargé d'élaborer des politiques d'embauche des handicapés physiques qui soient acceptables. Ces comités procéderaient de la façon suivante :

- i. Analyser tous les postes au sein de l'organisme pour déterminer quelles caractéristiques physiques, mentales et émotionnelles sont nécessaires pour chaque poste.
  - ii. D'après l'analyse des postes, établir un quota de travailleurs handicapés.
  - iii. Mettre en place un plan d'action pour atteindre le quota dans un délai donné.
  - iv. Elaborer un plan visant à permettre aux travailleurs handicapés d'accéder à leur lieu de travail.
  - v. Informer périodiquement les travailleurs et la communauté des progrès et des observations du comité et solliciter systématiquement leurs suggestions.
- c) Le ministère désigné devrait examiner le travail effectué par le comité et, en cas d'approbation d'un plan d'action, celui-ci deviendrait officielle-ment la politique d'embauche acceptable de la société à des fins d'action positive.

Le comité considère que les questions suivantes constituent des sujets de préoccupation dont il devra s'occuper :

– Étude des problèmes liés au revenu, aux frais de réadaptation et d'indemnisation, et de leur

Autres sujets de préoccupation

Transport rural

- incidence, étant donné la diversité des règlements et des mesures législatives.
- Conception d'un programme qui permettrait d'assurer l'égalité du droit à l'indemnisation en fonction de la cause de l'invalidité.
- Discussion du rôle des loisirs dans la réadaptation.
- Étude des problèmes de dépendance chez les handicapés.
- Recherche des données sur l'utilisation positive et directe de la technologie moderne, à la fois pour la réadaptation et pour l'emploi des handicapés.

Comité sur le transport

Délégués auprès du comité :

Invités du comité :

- Marian Webb, présidente
  - Jack Longman
  - Leonard Lotewski
  - Ed Blake
  - Margaret Young
  - Rob Barnes
  - Gerald Clarke
- Invités du comité :
- Bob Waterhouse
  - Coordonnateur
  - Services de réadaptation
  - Barbara Dunn
  - Directrice du comité de sécurité nationale
  - Association du personnel navigant des lignes aériennes canadiennes.
  - Cathy Bishop
  - Air Canada
  - Chris Poon
  - Ministère des Transports et des Communications
  - John Wilkes
  - Ministère des Transports et des Communications
  - David Stern
  - Ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement
  - Brian Ferguson
  - Air Canada

Le comité a dans le passé exprimé sa vive inquiétude à propos des moyens de transport inadéquats pour les handicapés habitant les régions rurales de la province. Des recommandations à propos des mesures à prendre dans ce domaine ont été soumises au ministère des Transports et des Communications en 1980.

de prêts sans intérêt, afin que l'équipement approprié soit disponible et que les travailleurs touchent au moins le salaire minimum.

e) La composante occupation du programme d'atelier a principalement pour but de répondre aux besoins de relations sociales et de loisirs des handicapés et peut-être même de revenu. Il faudrait donc que cet aspect du programme soit considéré comme un service communautaire et c'est la communauté qui devrait avoir la responsabilité première de ce programme. En cas de participation d'un ministère provincial à cette composante du programme, il serait normal que le choix porte sur le ministère du Tourisme et des Loisirs. Le ministère pourrait octroyer des fonds de lancement d'un programme occupationnel et de l'aide pour trouver le personnel nécessaire à la réalisation de ce programme."

## 2. Formation des conseillers en réadaptation professionnelle

"Dans une large mesure, la réussite en matière d'affectation d'un handicapé qualifié à un poste de travail est directement liée à la compétence du conseiller. Dans divers rapports antérieurs, le comité sur l'emploi et la réadaptation a souligné qu'il était nécessaire d'améliorer la qualité et le nombre des services de conseils en réadaptation dont les handicapés peuvent se prévaloir. Ce besoin est toujours plus urgent. Pour que les handicapés puissent participer à la vie en société malgré l'intensification du caractère complexe de l'environnement, il est impératif qu'ils puissent compter sur l'aide de conseillers en réadaptation compétents, intéressés et hautement qualifiés."

On peut lire dans l'exposé de principe que les conseillers en réadaptation professionnelle n'ont pas une formation et une expérience pratiques adéquates et les recommandations suivantes sont faites :

"Il faudrait arriver au stade où le conseiller en réadaptation professionnelle exercerait une profession à part qui nécessiterait une formation et pratique adéquate comme c'est le cas dans bien des pays étrangers. On pourrait cependant adopter à titre provisoire des mesures qui permettraient d'améliorer la qualité des services dans ce domaine.

a) Le ministère des Collèges et Universités devrait inciter les établissements enseignant le travail social dans la province d'ajouter à leurs programmes des cours de formation en réadaptation professionnelle à l'intention des personnes

b) Il serait souhaitable que le cours actuellement offert conjointement par le Collège Seneca et l'Université York qui porte sur la réadaptation professionnelle et aboutit à un BA en psychologie fasse l'objet de publicité et soit élargi. On devrait encourager les organismes gouvernementaux à retenir les services des personnes qui auront suivi ce programme lorsqu'ils auront à combler des postes de conseillers en réadaptation professionnelle. La réussite dans ce domaine est étroitement liée au choix de la personne appropriée. Les intéressés peuvent être de formation extrêmement variée : sciences infirmières, travail social, enseignement, etc. Mais il est indispensable qu'ils soient sensibles au sort des handicapés, capables de percevoir le défi que pose un handicapé et soient en mesure de travailler avec les gens et de les influencer.

c) Il faudrait en fin de compte que les services de réadaptation professionnelle soient dispensés par des membres d'une profession distincte qui y accèderaient par des études universitaires supérieures et des stages pratiques. L'Université York a élaboré un projet de programme de maîtrise d'orientation en réadaptation professionnelle. Le ministère des Collèges et Universités devrait faire l'objet de pressions afin qu'il offre l'aide financière nécessaire à la mise en oeuvre de ce programme dans les plus brefs délais. Un tel programme permettra non seulement de former des travailleurs spécialisés dans ce domaine, mais aussi des enseignants compétents qui formeront les futures générations de conseillers en réadaptation professionnelle.

3. L'action positive et le système de quota pour l'emploi des handicapés physiques

L'exposé de principe examine l'efficacité des programmes d'action positive et des systèmes de quota qui existent dans divers pays ainsi que les conséquences de ces programmes à propos de l'emploi des handicapés en Ontario. Voici les recommandations proposées qui, espérons-nous, réunissent les aspects les plus intéressants des programmes susceptibles d'être adoptés en Ontario :

"a) Le gouvernement de l'Ontario devrait adopter dans un délai de trois ans une politique selon laquelle il ne ferait pas affaires avec les sociétés



## Exposé de principe sur l'emploi et la réadaptation

Le comité a préparé un exposé de principe sur l'emploi et la réadaptation des handicapés physiques qui comporte un certain nombre de recommandations précises en rapport avec les objectifs cités ci-dessus. L'exposé a reçu l'approbation du Conseil consultatif en septembre 1982 et a été adressé à Madame Margaret Birch.

Ce document est le résultat des recommandations faites précédemment par le comité, des pré-occupations exprimées par les membres du Conseil, de réunions communautaires, d'informations et d'opinions provenant d'organismes et de particuliers concernés et de mémoires présentés à l'occasion des débats publics. Trois points principaux ont été traités dans ce document :

1. La formation, l'emploi et les ateliers à l'intention des handicapés physiques.
2. Les programmes de formation des conseillers en réadaptation professionnelle.
3. L'action positive et le système de quota pour l'emploi des handicapés physiques en Ontario.
1. La formation, l'emploi et les ateliers à l'intention des handicapés physiques

"Le Conseil consultatif a officiellement approuvé l'intégration maximale des handicapés physiques dans la société. Cette intégration doit notamment porter sur la formation professionnelle, l'enseignement, les loisirs et les activités sociales. Il est bien évident que la plupart des handicapés préféreraient les avantages financiers et sociaux qu'offre le travail dans une entreprise ou une industrie ordinaires plutôt que le travail en atelier. Mais il faut cependant reconnaître que, pour un nombre assez élevé d'entre eux, la solution des ateliers peut être valable et même la seule possibilité de travailler."

L'exposé de principe précise les différences entre les catégories fonctionnelles des différents ateliers, les problèmes qui y sont associés, et fait des recommandations à propos de nouvelles méthodes de financement et d'organisation.

Voici quelques-unes de ces recommandations :

- (a) Les programmes d'ateliers devraient être financés d'après leurs composantes fonctionnelles : formation, emploi et occupation, en d'autres termes, le financement serait accordé pour chaque composante d'un programme.
- (b) Le paiement devrait être effectué par l'intermédiaire du ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires aux organismes qui sont en

mesure d'offrir des services d'évaluation ou de formation et qui répondent à certaines normes déterminées concernant le contenu, les résultats, les installations, les ressources et le personnel. Les fonds devraient en principe couvrir le coût proportionnel du temps de travail du personnel, d'utilisation des installations, de l'équipement et des ressources aux fins de la composante formation du programme.

- (c) Les conditions suivantes doivent être remplies pour la participation au programme de formation en atelier :

- i. Le stagiaire doit avoir accès à un conseiller en réadaptation professionnelle attitré.
- ii. Le stagiaire doit avoir droit à une allocation de formation pendant toute la durée du programme comme celle qui est prévue par l'assurance-chômage, Emploi et Immigration, la Commission des accidents du travail, le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires ou par tout autre organisme de réadaptation privé.
- iii. Avant de mettre en oeuvre le programme, l'organisme chargé de la formation doit préciser par écrit la nature, la portée, le contenu et les résultats prévus du programme de formation.
- iv. Lorsque le programme de formation est en cours, toute modification importante du temps, du lieu, du contenu ou des résultats prévus du programme doit faire l'objet de négociations avec l'organisme chargé de la formation, le stagiaire, le conseiller en formation professionnelle et les sources de financement avant qu'il puisse être donné suite aux changements envisagés.

- (d) La composante emploi du programme de formation en atelier devrait relever du ministère du Travail pour garantir le respect des normes de sécurité et d'hygiène normales. De plus, le ministère du Travail devrait fournir sur demande à propos de la composante emploi, des services de consultation pour aider les intéressés à trouver des emplois ou contrats appropriés et pour que l'équipement nécessaire pour le travail puisse être obtenu.

Enfin, le ministère du Travail devrait s'assurer que les travailleurs chargés de la composante emploi de l'atelier touchent au moins le salaire minimum ou que l'atelier fonctionne sous forme de coopérative.

Le besoin d'emploi dans un tel atelier a prouvé qu'il faut disposer de moyens de financement, soit sous forme de subventions, soit sous forme



- L'orthophonie : le comité s'est entretenu de ce sujet avec Marlene Stein, conseillère en orthophonie du ministère de la Santé. Il fut noté qu'un "comité de sous-ministres" discuterait de la possibilité d'obtenir un plus grand nombre d'orthophonistes et qu'il recommanderait certaines solutions.

- Loi sur l'enfance en difficulté : le comité a discuté avec des délégués du ministère de l'Éducation de nouvelles mesures concernant l'éducation des enfants sourds et demi-sourds et des effets que pourraient entraîner ces mesures.

Certaines opinions exprimées sur le système actuellement en vigueur :

- les enfants doivent quitter la maison à un âge très jeune pour étudier dans un internat situé loin de leur domicile
- on s'attend à peu des normes d'éducation
- on désire que les conseils scolaires locaux assument leurs responsabilités

**Comité sur l'emploi et la réadaptation**

- William Murdock, président
- Myron Angus
- Fernand Dame
- Karen Glen
- Dr Albin Jousse
- Roy Herbert

Délégué auprès du comité :  
Dr Victor Bennett

Invité du comité :

- Chris McMonagle
- Ministère du Travail

Depuis sa création en 1978, les buts et objectifs du comité sur l'emploi et la réadaptation ont été de deux ordres :

- 1) Rehausser le nombre et la qualité des emplois qui conviennent aux handicapés physiques.
- 2) Améliorer l'efficacité des services de réadaptation, que ces services soient dispensés à des fins professionnelles ou qu'ils visent l'amélioration de la qualité de la vie de la personne handicapée.

**Prestations pour enfants handicapés**

Le programme de prestations pour enfants handicapés a été introduit en 1977 pour permettre aux enfants gravement handicapés de vivre à la maison et dans la communauté, en aidant les parents, au moyen d'une allocation mensuelle, à faire face aux coûts exorbitants engendrés par le handicap de leur enfant

À la suite des difficultés éprouvées par certaines familles pour obtenir l'allocation, le comité a rencontré des représentants du ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires pour discuter de cette question.

Les plaintes que le comité a reçues s'appliquaient surtout aux difficultés entraînées par le manque d'uniformité entre les bureaux régionaux au niveau de l'administration, au fait que certains assistants sociaux connaissent peu le programme et qu'ils étaient peu disposés à aider les familles ne sachant pas très bien comment faire pour obtenir leurs allocations. Ces plaintes ont été portées à l'attention du délégué du ministère.

Un délégué de la Société des timbres de Pâques a rapporté 37 cas où des familles ont eu des difficultés à obtenir une allocation. On lui a demandé de préparer un dossier à l'appui pour le comité.

Le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires a accepté de se pencher sur cette question, et le comité continuera à superviser le programme.

**Autres préoccupations**

Le comité a aussi eu à considérer les points suivants :

- L'intégration de l'enfant handicapé dans le système scolaire régulier : l'accès aux écoles pour certains enfants a été rendu difficile à la suite de la réticence de l'école à accepter un enfant handicapé et du fait que certaines écoles interdisent à un aide de venir à l'école pour aider l'enfant à aller aux toilettes, etc.
- On estimait que l'enfant devrait passer par des classes de transition avant d'entrer dans un environnement scolaire régulier.
- Les ordinateurs et l'enfant handicapé : le comité a visité une salle de classe de l'Ontario Crippled Children's Center pour vérifier de quelle façon les ordinateurs servaient à l'éducation de l'enfant handicapé. Les ordinateurs peuvent être modifiés pour permettre à l'enfant handicapé d'effectuer facilement des opérations au moyen d'une seule touche.

# Comité d'étude sur les besoins particuliers des enfants atteints d'un handicap physique

Dr William Orr, président

Deborah Bignell  
Janice Harris  
Beverly Gray

Margaret McLeod

Invités du comité

Dr Eric Haughton  
Coordonnateur  
Education pré-scolaire  
Loyalist College (Belleville)

Maurice Marchand  
Agent d'éducation  
Ministère de l'Education

Robin Sanford  
Toronto

Bill McGovern  
Toronto

Dorothy Beam  
Toronto

Judy Bowles

Enseignante du cycle primaire  
Ontario Crippled Children's Center

Dr W. Lotto

Directeur médical adjoint

Ontario Crippled Children's Center

Marlene Stein

Conseillère en orthophonie  
Ministère de la Santé

Keith Whittaker

Agent d'éducation  
Ministère de l'Education

Rona Feldstein

New Market

Dominic Alfieri

Ministère des Services

sociaux et communautaires

John Stapleton

Ministère des Services

sociaux et communautaires

Joe Cashen

Société des timbres de

Pâques

## Le rôle de la famille

Au cours de son enquête sur les soins individuels dispensés par un préposé, le comité a constaté que la majeure partie des soins administrés aux handicapés en Ontario le sont le plus souvent par les membres de la famille et, en particulier, par les parents ou le conjoint

Le comité a entamé la préparation d'un exposé de principe à propos du "Rôle de la famille". Les objectifs de cet exposé seront les suivants :

- 1) Reconnaître le rôle des membres de la famille qui s'efforcent d'aider leur parent handicapé à vivre au sein de la communauté.
- 2) Donner un aperçu général des services de soutien auxquels les familles peuvent avoir recours (aide familiale par exemple).
- 3) Faire des recommandations à propos des mesures nécessaires pour appuyer et encourager les familles qui subviennent aux besoins d'un parent handicapé.

Le comité compte poursuivre la préparation de cet exposé au cours de l'année 1983-1984.

## Écarts de financement

En septembre 1982, le comité s'est entretenu avec les représentants du ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires pour examiner la question des écarts de financement entre les divers projets de logement et de services de soutien.

Le comité apprend que le ministère était au courant de ces écarts et qu'il lui était particulièrement difficile de trouver la méthode qui serait la plus efficace pour y remédier.

Le comité demanda aux représentants du ministère de lui fournir des renseignements précis sur la Loi sur les foyers pour déficients mentaux et sur la loi intitulée Ministry of Community and Social Services Act (loi sur le ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires). Le comité apprend que le ministère prépare actuellement des recommandations qui devraient avoir pour effet de minimiser certains problèmes d'inégalité.

Le comité continuera à suivre l'évolution de cette question.



de fonctionner normalement dans la société. On y trouve également une description des services et des programmes de soins individuels dispensés par un préposé actuellement offerts. Les recommanda-  
tions suivantes ont été faites :

“Attendu que Le Conseil consultatif de l’Ontario sur les handicapés physiques est fermement convaincu que la majorité des handicapés phy-  
siques sont individuellement capables d’assumer la direction de leur propre vie et d’accepter les responsabilités associées aux décisions s’y rapportant et la meilleure solution au problème des services d’aide à domicile est de nature très individuelle pour bien des particuliers et l’accès aux services d’aide à domicile, du point de vue de leur disponibilité ou du droit à ceux-ci, varie considérablement selon les régions de la province et qu’il est parfois inexistant, il est résolu que le projet de loi relatif aux services d’aide à domicile doit prévoir un système qui permette d’indemniser direc-  
tement les personnes qui ont besoin de ces services afin qu’elles puissent concevoir et avoir la haute main sur un programme de services axé sur leurs conditions particulières.”

La position du Conseil à propos de cette question n’a pas varié. “Un système doit être prévu afin que les handicapés ayant besoin de soins dispensés par un préposé aient droit à une allocation leur permettant de subvenir à ces besoins.”

Il a été en outre recommandé dans cet exposé de principe qu’il soit tenu compte des directives suivantes lors de la conception de ce système :

- “1) Que le paiement soit effectué directement à l’intéressé et ne soit pas assujéti à un critère de revenu.
- 2) Que le droit à l’allocation soit accordé à tous les citoyens atteints d’un handicap permanent, qui ont besoin d’aide en permanence pour accomplir les activités de la vie quotidienne et qui sont capables de diriger et de superviser cette aide.

- 3) Que quiconque a besoin d’aide fasse l’objet d’une évaluation individuelle afin de déterminer

la mesure dans laquelle il ou elle a besoin d’aide.

- 4) Que le montant de cette allocation s’élève au minimum à la somme prévue par la Loi sur les normes d’emploi dans le cas des domestiques et gardes d’enfants logés lorsque l’intéressé souhaite que le préposé soit logé à domicile. Le montant maximal pourrait être équivalent à l’allocation journalière des projets de services de soutien où des personnes ayant des besoins comparables pourraient être choisies. Pour ceux qui pré-  
féraient retenir les services d’un préposé selon un tarif horaire, l’allocation totale maximale pourrait également correspondre à l’allocation journalière d’un projet de services de soutien où des personnes dans une situation comparable sont choisies. Selon une autre solution, on pourrait accorder un tarif horaire dans le cadre d’un projet de services de soutien dans le cas des préposés ayant au moins un an de service. Lorsque les handicapés ont des besoins supé-  
rieurs à ceux des personnes qui bénéficient de services de soutien, seule l’allocation journalière versée dans le cas des frais de soins aux malades chroniques diminuée des frais de pension serait comparable.

- 5) Que le rôle de la famille devrait être celui que choisit la personne handicapée et sa famille.”

Recommandations supplémentaires à examiner avec celles qui précèdent :

- “a) Que le ministère de la Santé encourage l’élaboration et le financement de programmes de formation permettant aux intéressés d’assumer la responsabilité de leur propre programme de soins individuels dispensés par un préposé. Ces programmes devraient être offerts dans tous les établissements de réadaptation relevant du ministère de la Santé.
- b) Que le ministère du Travail, le ministère de la Consommation et du Commerce et tout autre ministère concerné préparent un guide simple précisant les démarches et formalités adminis-  
tratives à suivre pour embaucher et congédier des préposés. Ce guide pourrait être axé sur les besoins des particuliers plutôt que sur celui des sociétés.”

L’exposé de principe sur les soins individuels dispensés par un préposé a été approuvé à l’unanimité par le Conseil consultatif. Des exemplaires de l’exposé ont été envoyés aux ministères concernés. On peut obtenir des exemplaires de cet exposé en s’adressant au bureau du Conseil.



Comité des services de logement et de soutien

Audrey King, présidente  
Margaret Anderson, coprésidente  
Jim Gerrond  
Herbert Berzins  
Beryl Potter

Délégués auprès du comité :

Jackie Rodger  
Marilyn Noell

Invités du comité :

Jon Kelly

Ministère des Services sociaux  
et communautaires

Ted Moses

Ministère des Services sociaux  
et communautaires

Mary Earle

Commission des accidents  
du travail

Dan McTavish

Technical Aids and System

for the Handicapped Incorporated

Prothèses et autres dispositifs

Le Conseil consultatif a continué à faire pression sur le ministère de la Santé afin que le Régime d'assurance-maladie de l'Ontario (OHIP) couvre les prothèses et autres dispositifs nécessaires aux handicapés physiques.

Le comité a étudié les difficultés d'ordre financier, entre autres, celles auxquelles doivent faire face les handicapés qui ont besoin de prothèses et autres dispositifs. Les nombreuses déclarations fréquemment faites à propos des préoccupations des agences, organismes et particuliers sur cette question ont été renforcées par des entretiens personnels avec vingt-cinq handicapés environ. Il a été recommandé que les frais relatifs aux prothèses et autres dispositifs orthopédiques prescrits constituent des frais remboursables.

Au début de 1982, le comité a préparé un exposé de principe que le Conseil consultatif a approuvé à l'unanimité et qui a été adressé au ministre de la Santé. Pour obtenir un exemplaire de ce document qui présente la situation actuelle et quelques recommandations pour l'avenir, s'adresser au bureau du Conseil.

En janvier 1982, le ministre de la Santé a annoncé que le gouvernement de l'Ontario paiera 75% du

Soins individuels dispensés par un préposé

En 1979, le comité a formulé une définition des soins dispensés par un préposé qui continue à être largement utilisée par les agences et groupements bénévoles lorsqu'ils mettent sur pied des services communautaires. Selon la définition, les soins dispensés par un préposé désignent la prestation de services, 24 heures par jour, suivant les besoins d'une personne physiquement handicapée afin que toutes les activités nécessaires de la vie quotidienne puissent être exécutées dans un temps raisonnable. Au cours de 1982, le comité a poursuivi son examen de la question et en novembre 1982 elle a fait l'objet d'un exposé de principe. On y trouve une description des activités nécessaires et courantes de la vie quotidienne qui permettent aux handicapés

coût des prothèses et dispositifs désignés pour les personnes âgées de 18 ans et moins. Le Conseil consultatif a fait savoir qu'il était déçu que le programme ne s'applique qu'à une partie seulement de la population et il a recommandé par la suite qu'aucune priorité pour ces dispositifs ne soit fondée sur l'âge, le genre ni la cause du handicap ni sur le revenu. En réponse à la recommandation du Conseil, Madame Margaret Birch a déclaré que le nouveau programme visant à aider les personnes de 18 ans et moins à acheter des prothèses et autres dispositifs avait été mis en place après une étude aussi minutieuse que longue et que cette initiative représente une première étape d'une grande portée. Madame Birch a également ajouté qu'elle comprenait la préoccupation du Conseil à propos de cette question importante.

Le programme d'appareils et de prothèses (Assistive Devices Program) est entré en vigueur en juillet 1982. Le ministère de la Santé a créé un comité consultatif pour évaluer le programme au cours des deux prochaines années. L'équipement couvert par le programme comprend les prothèses auditives, les fauteuils roulants, le matériel orthotique et de prothétique, les fournitures génito-urinaires et les drains d'ostomie. L'équipement respiratoire et les fournitures s'y rapportant et les gaz à usage médical. Du fait de la complexité du nouveau programme, d'autres équipements et fournitures pourront être ajoutés ultérieurement

Le Conseil consultatif continuera à suivre l'application du programme et à faire pression pour que tous les handicapés puissent en bénéficier, indépendamment de leur âge, leur incapacité ou leur revenu.

groupe n'hésiteront pas à nous contacter pour nous faire part de leurs opinions et de leurs pensées.

Le Conseil est principalement composé de personnes qui ne sont pas nécessairement expertes dans tous les domaines qui intéressent le Conseil. Nous souhaitons que tous ceux qui travaillent avec des handicapés physiques ou pour eux participent à notre effort. Nous tenons particulièrement à connaître l'opinion des handicapés physiques.

Je tiens à remercier Madame Birch pour son appui et l'occasion qu'elle m'a donnée de servir les handicapés physiques de cette province ainsi que pour la preuve de sa confiance en moi concédée par mon maintien au poste de président pendant un an de plus.

Nous souhaitons que l'année qui vient soit marquée par le dynamisme et la satisfaction pour tous les handicapés physiques de l'Ontario.

Le président,



Jack W. Longman

J'étais persuadé que ce rapport serait le dernier que je présenterais en tant que président du Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques. Mais à la suite de la prorogation d'un an de la période d'activité du Conseil qui devait normale-ment expirer le 31 mars 1983, Madame Margaret Birch, m'a demandé de bien vouloir continuer à exercer mes fonctions de président jusqu'au 31 mars 1984, date à laquelle les lois de temporisation s'appliqueront aux trois Conseils du Secrétariat aux Affaires sociales.

La composition du Conseil a été modifiée au cours de 1982-1983, il compte désormais deux vice-présidents : Audrey King et Joe West. Tous deux président également des comités du Conseil et je leur suis extrêmement reconnaissant de leur appui et de leurs conseils.

Ce sont souvent les comités qui effectuent les travaux les plus fondamentaux et les plus ardu du Conseil. Les présidents et membres des cinq comités permanents méritent toutes nos félicitations et notre reconnaissance pour les efforts qu'ils ont déployés. En lisant ce rapport annuel, vous aurez l'occasion de vous faire une idée de leurs réalisations et vous comprendrez qu'ils sont la "clé de voûte" du Conseil.

Deux exposés de principe ont été préparés cette année; le premier l'a été par le comité des services de logement et de soutien et a porté sur les soins individuels dispensés par un préposé et le second, préparé par le comité sur l'emploi et la réadaptation a traité de l'emploi et de la réadaptation des handicapés physiques. Ces deux documents ont été approuvés par le Conseil et soumis au gouvernement. Le public peut les obtenir en s'adressant au bureau du Conseil.

Étant donné que la date d'effet de la loi de temporisation était le 31 mars 1983, nous nous sommes sentis obligés d'examiner nos efforts et réalisations passés et d'envisager aussi notre rôle futur. À cet effet, nous avons organisé un séminaire de deux jours et demi à Geneva Park (Orillia) en mai 1982 au cours duquel nous avons dressé le bilan le plus objectif et le plus complet possible de nos activités. Nos délibérations sur le rôle du Conseil consultatif ont fait l'objet d'un exposé de principe expliquant la position du Conseil. Ce

document a été remis à la Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales. Nous sommes d'avis que ce document présente de façon objective le rôle du Conseil et son avenir et nous souhaitons vivement que Madame Birch et ses collègues approuvent les recommandations formulées dans le rapport.

Au cours de l'année écoulée, le Conseil s'est de nouveau efforcé de communiquer avec la population de l'Ontario en organisant deux débats publics. Le premier débat fort réussi a été organisé avec la collaboration de l'ancien membre du Conseil, M. Dave Koivisto, et s'est déroulé à Thunder Bay en août 1982. Les nombreuses réalisations à l'actif des handicapés de la région ont été particulièrement encourageantes. À l'occasion de ce débat, le Conseil a été exposé à un grand nombre d'idées et de pensées qui ne manqueront pas de lui être utiles dans ses activités futures.

Le deuxième débat public s'est déroulé à St. Catharines en octobre 1982. La réussite de ce débat public était garantie d'avance grâce aux deux représentants du Conseil dans cette ville, le Dr William Orr et Joe West. Nous avons cette fois encore eu l'occasion de prendre connaissance des vues de nombreux groupes, organismes et particuliers. Comme précédemment, l'échange d'expériences et d'idées a été d'une grande utilité au Conseil au cours de ses délibérations et de la formulation des recommandations au gouvernement.

Nous remercions les deux comités organisateurs de Thunder Bay et de St. Catharines de leurs efforts et de leur hospitalité. Mon rapport serait incomplet si je n'exprimais pas mes remerciements au personnel du Conseil. De bien des façons, la force du Conseil réside dans les efforts de notre personnel : Elizabeth Szalowski, Leila Tikaram et notre nouvelle secrétaire Willie Hermann. Toutes ont travaillé de longues heures pour épauler avec dévouement le président, les vice-présidents et les membres du Conseil. Nous les remercions pour leur collaboration passée et future.

Si j'ai accepté de rester au poste de président du Conseil pendant une année supplémentaire, c'est parce que je suis convaincu que le Conseil fait oeuvre utile, qu'il sert effectivement les intérêts des handicapés de l'Ontario et que, grâce à lui, les handicapés peuvent communiquer leurs points de vue au gouvernement de souhaiter que le Conseil puisse continuer son action et que les organismes et



Constitution et objectifs du Conseil

Le Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques a été constitué le 5 février 1975 par un décret du conseil des ministres approuvé par le lieutenant-gouverneur de l'Ontario. Outre son président et ses deux vice-présidents, il comprend 18 membres venant de plusieurs régions de la province. Plus de la moitié des membres sont atteints d'un handicap physique et tous ont acquis une certaine expérience auprès des organismes qui s'occupent des personnes handicapées.

Voici le mandat du Conseil :

- 1. De façon générale, conseiller le Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales sur toute question relative aux handicapés physiques de l'Ontario.
- 2. De façon plus particulière, mais sans exclure d'autres tâches :
  - (a) identifier et étudier les problèmes des

- (b) encourager les citoyens de l'Ontario à exprimer leur point de vue sur toute question relative aux handicapés physiques;
  - (c) promouvoir auprès de ces derniers toutes les occasions de participer à des programmes familiaux et communautaires d'entraide;
  - (d) examiner les politiques et programmes concernant les personnes atteintes d'un handicap physique;
  - (e) informer régulièrement le Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales de l'évolution des activités du Conseil;
  - (f) présenter au Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales un rapport annuel des activités et réalisations du Conseil.

Membres du Conseil

*Membres du comité exécutif	
*Jack W. Longman, président	WindSOR
*Margaret Anderson	Belle River
Myron Angus	Port Stanley
Herbert Berzins	Toronto
Deborah Bignell	Toronto
Fernand Dame	Kapuskasing
Jim Gerrond	Toronto
Karen Glen	Hamilton
Beverly Gray	Ottawa
Janice Harris (démissionnaire)	Belleville
*Membres du comité exécutif	
Roy Herbert	
Dr Albin T. Jousse	
*Audrey J. King	
Athol Layton	
Leonard Lotocki	
*William L. Murdock	
*Dr William J. Orr	
Beryl Potter	
William Watson	
*Marian Webb	
*Joseph West	
Mactier	
Toronto	
Toronto	
Toronto	
Dryden	
London	
St. Catharines	
Toronto	
Sharon	
Kingston	
St. Catharines	

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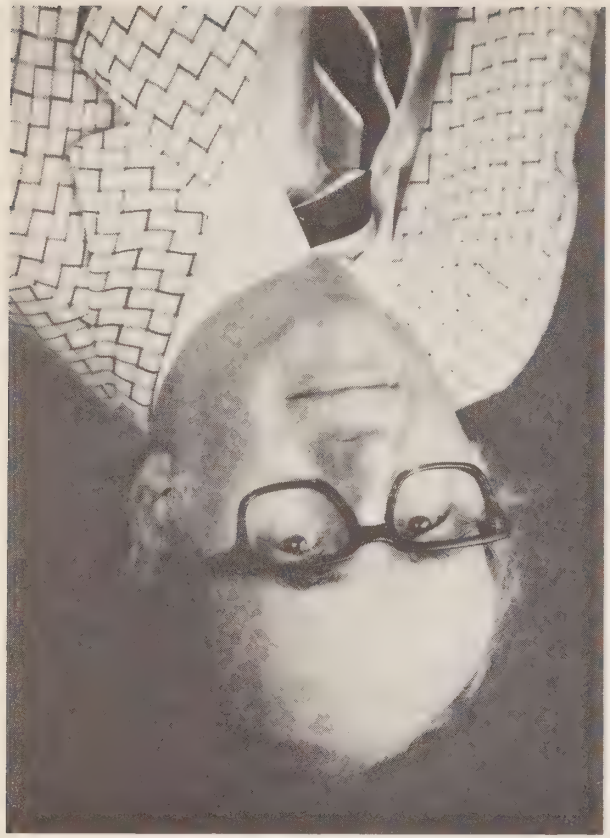
Personnel administratif

Elizabeth Szalowski, administratrice principale  
Leila B. Tikaram, adjointe administrative

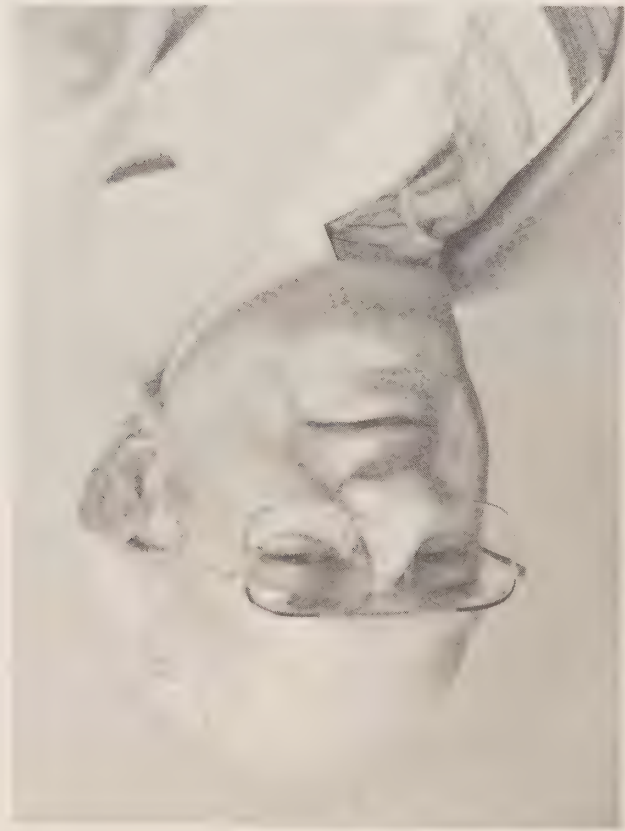
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Audrey J. King  
Vice-présidente



Joseph West  
Vice-président



Jack W. Longman  
Président





Photo – Ashley & Crippen,  
Toronto

L'honorable Margaret Birch  
Secrétaire de la province  
aux Affaires sociales

Madame,

J'ai l'honneur de vous présenter le huitième  
rapport annuel du Conseil consultatif de  
l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques pour la  
période de douze mois terminée le 31 mars  
1983.

Veillez agréer, Madame, l'assurance de ma très  
haute considération.

Le président,

Jack W. Longman

**Huitième rapport annuel du  
Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario  
sur les handicapés physiques  
pour la période de douze mois  
terminée le 31 mars 1983**

**Conseil consultatif sur  
les handicapés physiques**



Groupe-conseil auprès de la Secrétaire  
de la province aux Affaires sociales





# Huitième rapport annuel



Symbole international d'accès

Conseil consultatif  
de l'Ontario  
sur les handicapés  
physiques

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# Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped



International Symbol of Access

## Ninth Annual Report





**Ninth Annual Report of the  
Ontario Advisory Council  
on the Physically Handicapped  
for the twelve-month period  
ending March 31, 1984**



Ontario

**Advisory Council  
on the Physically Handicapped**

Advisory to the Secretary  
for Social Development



The Honourable Gordon Dean  
Provincial Secretary for  
Social Development

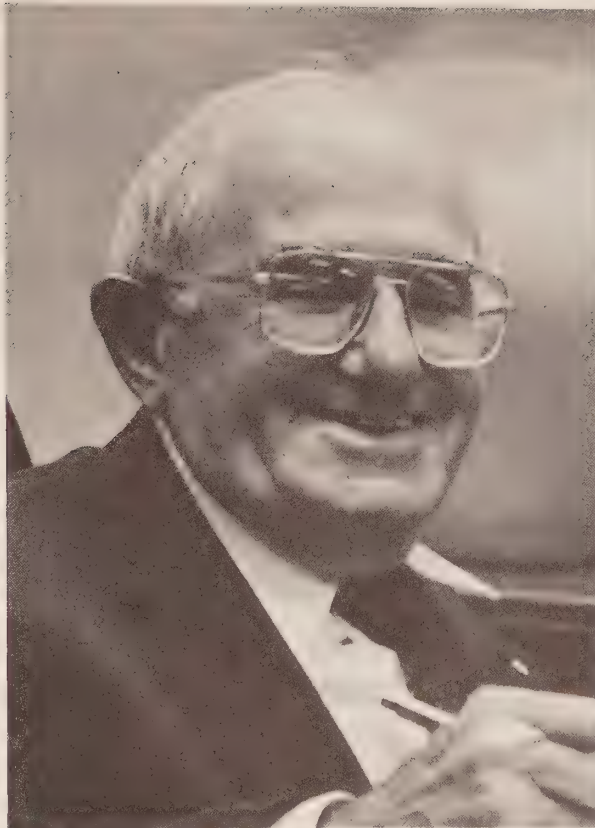
Dear Mr. Dean:

I am pleased to present to you the Ninth  
Annual Report of the Ontario Advisory Council  
on the Physically Handicapped for the twelve-  
month period ending March 31, 1984.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. W. Longman'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

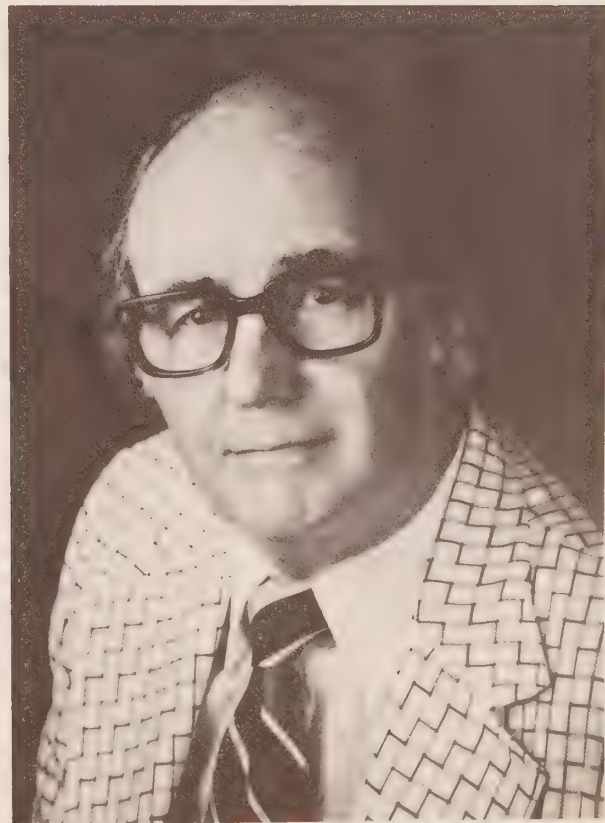
Jack W. Longman  
Chairman



Jack W. Longman  
Chairman



Audrey J. King  
Vice-Chairman



Joseph West  
Vice-Chairman





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# Organization and aims of the Council

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The Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped was established on February 5, 1975 by an Order-in-Council approved by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. The Council consists of a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen, and 18 members, who are drawn from across the province. Over half of the members are physically handicapped and all possess experience with agencies or organizations working for and with the handicapped.

The mandate of the Council is:

1. To advise the Provincial Secretary for Social Development on matters pertaining to physically handicapped persons in our society.
2. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing:
  - (a) To identify and study issues of concern to physically handicapped persons and, on the basis of the knowledge and experience of Council

- Members, to recommend action where appropriate;
- (b) To encourage residents of Ontario to express their views on matters relating to the physically handicapped;
  - (c) To promote opportunities for self-help for the physically handicapped in the context of the family and community;
  - (d) To review programs and policies affecting physically handicapped persons;
  - (e) To advise the Provincial Secretary for Social Development of progress in the Council's work on a regular basis;
  - (f) To submit to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development an annual report outlining the Council's activities and achievements.

## Membership of the Council

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* Jack W. Longman, Chairman	Windsor	Dr. Albin T. Jousse	Toronto
* Audrey King, Vice-Chairman	Toronto	Alex Kehoe	Chatham
* Joseph West, Vice-Chairman	St. Catharines	Athol Layton (deceased)	Toronto
* Margaret Anderson	Ottawa	Ronald W. McInnes	Toronto
Fernand Dame	Kapuskasing	* William Murdock	London
Barry Easton	Kenora	* Dr. William Orr	St. Catharines
* Jim Gerrond	Toronto	Beryl Potter	Toronto
Karen Glen-Freeland	Hamilton	Nancy Skinner	London
* Beverly Gray	Ottawa	Dr. J.H. Somerville	Toronto
* Roy Herbert	Mactier	Marian Webb	Kingston
		William Watson	Sharon
* Executive Committee Members			

## Council Office

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## Staff

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Elizabeth Szalowski, Senior Executive Officer  
Leila B. Tikaram, Administrative Assistant



# Chairman's remarks

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In my final "message" as Chairman of the Advisory Council I feel that my remarks should be in three parts. I shall report on the past year 1983/84, give a brief review of the Council's work since its inception in 1975 and, finally, share with you some thoughts for the future.

Again, the Council has just completed a busy year, as you will see when reading Committees' reports. Many questions were posed to the Government and numerous recommendations were submitted. All of these are currently being reviewed and/or implemented.

During 1983 we saw the retirement of Mrs. Margaret Birch, the Provincial Secretary for Social Development. The Council was Mrs. Birch's idea back in 1975 and she always worked very closely with the Council and its Chairmen. We will miss her, but I know she will continue to be interested in improving the quality of life for physically handicapped citizens of this province.

We worked for a few months with Mr. Bruce McCaffrey during his term as Provincial Secretary, and have finished the year by reporting to the Honourable Gordon Dean, the present Provincial Secretary for Social Development. In my few meetings with Mr. Dean I sensed that he has real concern for the work of the Advisory Council.

In lieu of regional Public Forums throughout the province, as we have done in past years, we held a two-day Consultation Meeting during 1983 with major provincial agencies, organizations and consumer groups who have concerns relating to the physically handicapped. Twenty-six invitations were extended and twenty-one representatives attended to present briefs and discuss issues. The general purpose of this meeting was to chart plans in order to meet the present and future needs of Ontario's physically handicapped citizens. This two-day event proved to be a stimulating and mutually beneficial opportunity for the exchange of ideas. However, it also raised an important question, do we really need twenty-six organizations to represent the all too common needs that arise from physical disability, regardless of its cause? Would we not be more effective if we all spoke with one united voice?

For the first time in the Council's history we lost a member by death. Lord Athol Layton gave generously of his time to the many causes of the handicapped. Members of the Council looked upon him as a friend — to know Al was to love him.

As a nine year Council member and as Chairman for the past five years, I would like to review some of the past concerns and achievements of the Council. Looking back can often include nostalgia, however, in this case it is not reminiscing about good old times . . . it

is examining the way of life for the physically handicapped in Ontario during the past decade. With increased public awareness and support, the handicapped have become a more integral part of our total community. One can compare this change to the phenomena of technological advances that the world as a whole has experienced in just a few decades. So many myths have been exploded. Not only can man fly — he can now also land on the moon. Not only can we converse with others in any part of the world — we can also see events as they actually happen. All this technology is enabling more and more handicapped people to enter the mainstream of society and become self-sufficient members.

A similar explosion of "myths" has also occurred, with respect to the handicapped, in a very short period of time. I am proud to have been given the opportunity to participate in some of these events both as an individual and through the Advisory Council. The Council has made many recommendations and has witnessed many improvements since its inception. Some of these are:

- A parallel transportation service for the handicapped. This is now a reality, with approximately fifty communities participating in this program throughout the province.
- Some independent apartment living projects have been developed. While this is a good beginning, the needs are still vast in this area. Much more has to be done, especially for those young handicapped individuals who still remain in long-term care facilities.
- The Assistive Devices Program is finishing its second successful year in meeting the special equipment needs of children under 19 years of age. It is the Council's position that this program must be expanded to include all physically handicapped persons in this province, regardless of age.
- There has been improvement in income maintenance legislation for the disabled.
- Accessibility of buildings is becoming a reality within various communities. Improvements have been made to the Ontario Building Code which more effectively meet the needs of the physically handicapped.
- Various employment projects were started by several government ministries and for the first time we are witnessing improvement in employment opportunities for the employable handicapped.
- The passage of Bill 82 has ensured equal education and training opportunities for handicapped children.

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To sum up, we the handicapped of Ontario are no longer "cripples". We are *persons* with equal rights and protection under the new Ontario Human Rights Code.

As an outgoing — or should I say "retiring" Chairman, I cannot resist this opportunity to add some personal remarks. The relinquishing of the Chairmanship instills one with an irresistible temptation to be a prophet, or in more modern terminology, an expert consultant. In this role one can say a great deal without risking committing oneself to the implementation of prophesies.

I feel the major issues facing physically handicapped persons have been clearly identified. Now we must concentrate on solving the needs on an item by item basis. We who are physically disabled can no longer leave the solutions in the hands of other people. We must realize that a great deal of responsibilities rest on our own shoulders. We must accept the fact that life will never be completely perfect for any of us, disabled or able bodied. Rather than hitting our heads against the wall perhaps we should adopt the old expression "if one cannot climb over a mountain, one should go around it." We must work with able-bodied people of the world and realize that it is not their fault that we are handicapped. It is our obligation to the handicapped community to teach ways of overcoming barriers

through co-operative efforts, rather than just demanding that barriers be removed.

I hope that future Councils will further urge the government to make improvements in legislation relating to the physically handicapped and that the close liaison with the Provincial Secretary for Social Development will continue.

If I have learned anything as the Council Chairman it is that we, as physically handicapped persons, really have no enemies. We only face apathy and the lack of genuine awareness about our needs.

My sincerest thanks are extended to each and everyone of you — members, individuals, organizations and Council staff — who has worked with me through the years on the Advisory Council. I hesitate to name individuals, as I fear omitting someone, and also a total list would double the size of this Annual Report. Each of you know of your contribution to the Council's success — I thank you.



Jack W. Longman  
Chairman

# Major issues studied by Committees and Council, April 1983 - March 1984

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## Accommodation and Support Services Committee

Jim Gerrond, Chairman  
Nancy Skinner  
Beverly Gray  
Marian Webb  
Audrey King, Advisor

### *Representative to Committee:*

Jackie Rodger

### *Committee Guests:*

Don Dal Bianco  
Ontario Rest Homes Association  
Judy Bishop  
Ontario Rest Homes Association  
Jean McCartney  
Ministry of Community and Social Services  
Rick Hedges  
Ministry of Community and Social Services  
Heather Boon  
Ministry of Health

## Assistive devices

The Assistive Devices Program (ADP), which became effective in July 1982, has since been monitored by this Committee.

The Advisory Council has had a representative on the Ministry of Health's ADP Advisory Committee, established in 1982 to evaluate the program. The Council still maintains that the program should be universal and should be expanded to also include repairs of equipment.

## Individual Attendant Care

For some time now Council's Committee on Accommodation and Support Services has had concerns about the issue of attendant care. These concerns resulted in the preparation of a position paper on "Individual Attendant Care" which describes the basic essential activities of daily living necessary for handicapped individuals in order to function independently.

In the spring of 1983 the Advisory Council submitted this position paper to the Ontario Government and a response from the Provincial Secretary for Social Development was received on June 28, 1983.

This Committee acknowledged the government's

response to some parts of the position paper, especially the acceptance in principle of attendant care allowances. Referring to government cost estimates of attendant allowances, the Committee acknowledgement, in part, stated that "if judgement has already been made that the cost is prohibitive, then the government must have estimates of need and potential funding mechanisms must be worked out. Cost comparisons of various systems of providing attendant care must also have been one in order for government to know that this type of program would entail more money than is already being spent providing service of this nature rather than it being a matter of reallocation of funds."

As stated in Council's acknowledgement, the attendant care allowance concept is intended as an option of choice to existing programs and as a means of filling gaps between structured programs. Given the complexity of factors which create the need for attendant care, it is doubtful that any spectrum of services, no matter how wide, can ever eliminate gaps or overlaps. Council's position paper regarding attendant care does not in any way promote the concept as an exclusive program.

In December 1983, the Advisory Council held a meeting with representatives of the responding Ministries to discuss this issue. There was no indication at the meeting that Council's recommendations regarding the concept of attendant care allowances were received favourably. The Council maintains that Orders-in-Council are an inappropriate means of achieving this service and some mechanism for meeting the needs of those requiring individual attendant care must be established.

## The Role of the Family

During the summer of 1983, this Committee employed an Experience '83 summer student to undertake a study of the impact of a disability on a family and the role of the Ontario Government in assisting families of disabled persons. This Committee's objective was to prepare a position paper on "The Role of the Family".

Information was gathered from a number of disabled families and some organizations by means of personal interviews and written contacts. Information received referred mostly to the day-to-day living problems such as housing, education, support services and assistive devices. However, it did not examine the psycho-social implications of disability on the family and its disabled members.

This Committee consequently decided that this issue is of such complexity and it requires extensive research,



which the Advisory Council does not have the capability to pursue. For this reason, the further development of a position paper on "The Role of the Family" was withheld.

At the Council's general meeting in March 1984, this Committee stressed again the importance of such a study and the following recommendation was endorsed by Council: "that the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped recommends that the future Council reiterate the importance of the role of the family in the care of disabled persons (both adults and children), and, that the Secretariat for Disabled Persons consider undertaking a study to determine the day-to-day living patterns and the psycho-social effects such life has on the family, and how it could be assisted by society and government".

The Council feels that the family is still the greatest care-giver in our society. However, this fact is not always sufficiently acknowledged. Families often lack outside support in this attempt to keep the disabled person within the family and out of institutions.

The Advisory Council expressed willingness to co-operate in providing the framework for such a study on "The Role of the Family".

## Other areas of concern

**Personal Hygiene** — a meeting was held to investigate concerns brought to this Committee by a group of citizens regarding the delivery of personal hygiene care in Ontario's rehabilitation facilities, particularly those facilities providing services for persons with severe disabilities.

It was noted that there are few male staff persons available to assist male disabled individuals with the intimate aspects of their personal care. This Committee suggested that the group investigate the ratio of male and female staff providing assistance to the disabled in rehabilitation facilities. There was no further reported concern regarding this matter.

**Supported Independent Living** — In June 1983 The Honourable Frank Drea, Minister of Community and Social Services, in his remarks to the Metropolitan Toronto Association for the Mentally Retarded, introduced a new program called 'Supported Independent Living', which would extend and replace the existing apartment programs for this segment of society. Mr. Drea explained that the new program would be more portable than is allowed under the Homes for Retarded Persons Act as services would be provided to clients in their choice of setting, rather than in specifically designated settings.

In Council's position paper on Individual Attendant Care it was recommended that a similar program be provided for physically handicapped individuals to enable them to make their own arrangements to obtain the care they need in their own choice of setting also.

Further clarification about the 'Supported Independent Living' Program and whether it would also apply to physically handicapped persons was sought from the Minister of Community and Social Services.

## Special Needs of Physically Handicapped Children's Committee

Dr. William Orr, Chairman  
William Watson  
Alex Kehoe  
Barry Easton  
Audrey King, Advisor

### *Representative to Committee:*

Ross Byron  
Windsor

### *Committee Guests:*

Charlene Muller  
C.N.I.B.

David Neil  
W. Ross MacDonald School — Brantford

Dr. W. Lotto  
Easter Seal Society

Frank Sebo  
Ministry of Education

Berry Ezrin  
Ministry of Community and Social Services

John Stapleton  
Ministry of Community and Social Services

Kathleen Jordan  
Toronto

Maurice Marchand  
Ministry of Education

Betty Jean MacDonald  
Ministry of Health

John Montague  
Bloorview Children's Hospital

Jack Gourlia  
Toronto Board of Education

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## **Professional staff in centres for handicapped children**

Among the various concerns expressed by this Committee, was the lack of professional rehabilitation staff in treatment centres for handicapped children in some areas of Ontario.

The Easter Seal Society conducted a survey in nineteen centres across the province to find out how widespread the problem was in hiring professional staff, i.e. physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech therapists. The results of the survey indicated that in the Toronto area the problem was minimal compared to outlying areas.

Some of the reasons for the shortage of rehabilitation staff in the centres, as identified by the survey, were that insufficient numbers of individuals were being trained and professionals are unwilling to locate in small communities where salaries are lower and continued education is not easily accessible. Due to the difficulty of recruiting qualified Canadian graduates, some centres found it necessary to hire American trained therapists.

This Committee felt that much needed attention was due, particularly with respect to the shortage of speech therapists. As a result, the Advisory Council, at its December 1983 meeting, endorsed a recommendation "that the Council write to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development requesting that an enquiry be undertaken to investigate the situation of availability, training and salaries of speech therapists in Ontario, and that remedies be considered and undertaken in an attempt to solve the existing problems."

The Provincial Secretary for Social Development responded to Council's recommendation by stating that the Ministries of Education and Health have been requested to consider the issue raised.

## **Child and Family Services Act**

During the fiscal year 1983/1984 this Committee looked at the Child and Family Services Act.

At Council's general meeting in March 1984 the Committee expressed concern about the Act and recommended that the Child and Family Services Act specifically recognize physically handicapped children as a distinct and separate group of children with differing needs from those children currently referred to under the Developmental Services Act.

The above recommendation was forwarded to the Honourable Gordon Dean for comments. No reply had been received by the end of March 1984.

## **Handicapped Children's Benefits**

For some time now this Committee has expressed concerns about the problems experienced by some families in obtaining the monthly allowance given to parents of handicapped children.

Several complaints were brought to the attention of this Committee about the administration of the allowance at some local offices. These complaints and concerns prompted meetings with officials of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

To qualify for the allowance, families have to undergo a means test and the gross income of the family cannot exceed \$26,000. It was noted that families in larger centres with accessibility to services are provided with less financial support than those in northern and remote areas. There seems to be at times an uneven interpretation and application of guidelines with respect to this allowance across the province.

In October 1983 a recommendation was unanimously endorsed by the Advisory Council, asking for an immediate review of family allowances for handicapped children. Such a review should encompass every aspect of eligibility, including the income ceiling. The Council requested an opportunity to be informed of the review before implementation takes place.

In December 1983 the Provincial Secretary for Social Development acknowledged Council's recommendation regarding children's benefits, stating that this will be presented to the Minister of Community and Social Services for his response.

## **Orthodontic Care**

At the Council's general meeting in March 1984, this Committee expressed concerns regarding the orthodontic care required by children who are born with cleft palate. At the present time, such costs are not recognized by either the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) or the Assistive Devices Program (ADP).

In support of this Committee's concern, the Advisory Council endorsed the following recommendation and forwarded it to the Honourable Gordon Dean, Provincial Secretary for Social Development: "that orthodontia be provided by OHIP, for children with cleft palate, and that devices needed be provided by the Assistive Devices Program." As of March 31, 1984 there had been no reply.



## Education of Handicapped Children

This Committee has been concerned about the effects of Bill 82 as it relates to the education of handicapped children in Ontario.

Meetings were held with representatives of the Ministry of Education, Bloorview Children's Hospital, W. Ross Macdonald School and some parents to discuss the Bill, which places responsibilities on the local Boards of Education for the placement and education of handicapped children within their geographical location. It was noted that individual boards could set up programs in provincial schools and funds are provided for such programs. However, concern was expressed to the Committee that the funding being provided to local school boards for programs was not adequate.

Education of the visually impaired child was also reviewed by this Committee. It was learned that one in every thousand children is visually handicapped. Of this number 80% can use print and be served by school boards while 20% are totally blind and need education in a provincial school for the blind. The W. Ross Macdonald School in Brantford appears to be one of the best equipped places for providing education to visually impaired children. This school also acts as a resource centre to school boards.

The Ministry of Education has divided Ontario into six regions for providing services to visually handicapped students. Each region is supposed to have a special consultant. However, all six consultants are located in Brantford, and this often results in lengthy waits for consultation and educational material.

When Bill 82 is implemented this Committee plans to monitor its effectiveness in providing educational services to handicapped children.

## Other areas of concern

The following areas of concern were identified by this Committee for future investigation:

- funding of special education in secondary schools and health support services.
- The effects of Bill 82 as it relates to the education of handicapped children.
- The shortage of professional staff in centres for handicapped children.
- Orthodontic care for children with cleft palate.
- An adequate registry for handicapped children.
- This committee also plans to continue monitoring the handicapped children's benefits program.

## Employment/Rehabilitation Committee

William Murdock, Chairman  
Fernand Dame, Vice-Chairman  
Dr. Albin Jousse  
Joseph West, Advisor

### *Representative to the Committee:*

Dr. Victor Bennett

### *Committee Guests:*

Marilyn Ginsburg  
Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped  
B. Lomax  
Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsied  
Dorothy Jenner  
Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsied  
Harry Sanders  
Workers Compensation Board  
Jon Kelly  
Ministry of Community and Social Services

## Addiction amongst the Disabled

This Committee expressed concern about the problems arising from substance abuse by disabled persons in Ontario. During 1983 it brought this concern to the attention of the Provincial Secretary for Social Development, who responded by requesting an outline of a proposal for a study to be done. Discussions regarding the proposal and the problem in general ensued and the Secretariat for Disabled Persons was asked to prepare preliminary material on the issue of substance abuse amongst the physically handicapped.

A summary of the report which was subsequently prepared is available from the office of the Advisory Council. This report provides some empirical data and opinions about the incidence, causative factors, consequences and program initiatives with respect to the problem of substance abuse amongst the physically disabled.

Although this report made an important contribution to the study of substance abuse by disabled persons in Ontario, this Committee felt that some areas did not reflect accurate information and required further clarification. Comments to this effect, in addition to the following recommendations were submitted to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development:

- "1. An educational program should be made available throughout the province to provide:
  - a) Training for workers in agencies serving the



disabled in identification treatment, referrals and prevention of substance abuse.

- b) Training for workers in addiction specific services to help them understand the special needs of the disabled.
2. Agencies providing service to substance abusers should be encouraged and assisted, when necessary, to make their facilities accessible to disabled persons.
3. A research capability should be established to develop statistical data, to advise on appropriate treatment and prevention approaches, and to develop and disseminate other material related to the treatment and prevention of substance abuse among disabled persons.
4. A centre should be established for the treatment of disabled persons with alcohol and/or drug abuse problems who may not be admitted for one reason or another to community treatment services. Such a centre should be accessible and should have appropriate medical support services. The centre should have a research capability and should serve as a training facility for professionals in the field."

This Committee further suggested that there may be existing agencies or organizations in Ontario that could be encouraged to undertake such projects.

## Disability Insurance

For a number of years this Committee has been concerned about the inequities in the availability of compensation services, both rehabilitative and financial, to disabled persons in Ontario. This concern has also been expressed by many individuals, agencies, associations and committees at both the Federal and Provincial government levels.

This Committee held several meetings to discuss this concern, and it became evident that rehabilitation and financial benefits are provided according to the way and place in which a disabling injury occurs, rather than being related to the extent of disability or the particular needs of the disabled person.

Presently rehabilitation programs and financial benefits are available from a number of sources, such as the Workers' Compensation Board, Unemployment Insurance Commission, Department of Veterans Affairs, Family Benefits Act, Canada Employment and Immigration Commission and private insurance plans. Some attempts have been made to co-ordinate some of these services but the inequities in provision of services is far from satisfactory.

This Committee felt there is an urgent need to develop a universal and comprehensive system of disability

insurance which would provide rehabilitation services and benefits in an equitable manner to all disabled persons throughout Ontario. Such a plan should be based on the extent and nature of the disability and on the specific needs of the individual.

The following resolution was prepared and submitted by the Advisory Council to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development for comments and support:

"Whereas disability may occur any time during your life-span as a result of a genetic abnormality, birth trauma, illness, disease, neglect or injury and the severity of the disability is not a result of it's cause. Therefore, rehabilitation services and financial benefits should be made available in accordance with the degree of disability and not in accordance with the cause of the disability.

The degree to which the individual is handicapped relates to the extent of the disability and the effect it has on achieving his realistic and full potential. Therefore, in determining benefits the individual's potential, occupation, and established life-style should be considered.

Rehabilitation is intended to enable disabled persons to live with the greatest possible dignity through the selection and achievement of appropriate and realistic life goals which is an ongoing process resulting from changing environment, technology, needs and goals. Therefore, a full range of rehabilitation services as well as special equipment, devices, appliances, training programs and support services necessary to assist the individual achieve his maximum potential should be made equitably available to all disabled persons on an ongoing basis.

Although the injustice and inequality of the present non-system of compensation for disability has been brought to the attention of provincial and federal governments frequently in numerous reports, there seems to have been little or no improvement in the situation. There is an urgent need for an integrated and comprehensive approach to the provision of rehabilitation for disabled persons in Ontario.

Therefore, be it resolved

that the Ontario Government establish a Working Committee to create a model of

Universal Disability Compensation System to provide province-wide income and rehabilitation benefits. The system should integrate into the overall plan other compensation benefits for which an individual might be eligible.

The Working Committee should establish a minimum level of compensation with respect to income and rehabilitation related to the severity of the effect of disability.”

The Honourable Gordon Dean responded by stating that Council’s proposal regarding a Universal Disability Compensation System had been forwarded to the appropriate Ministry.

## Workers’ Compensation

During 1983 this Committee continued to study all issues relating to employment and rehabilitation of the handicapped. This included continued examination of rehabilitation services, financial benefits and the organization and administration of Workers’ Compensation in Ontario.

This Committee held meetings with representatives from the Workers’ Compensation Board, recipients of Workers’ Compensation, and employers. It also reviewed relevant literature pertaining to Workers’ Compensation in Ontario. In December 1983 the Committee completed its comprehensive review of the Ministry of Labour’s report entitled “White Paper on the Workers’ Compensation Act” and the twenty-one proposals therein.

Although the Workers’ Compensation Act of Ontario has been considered a model and has been copied by jurisdictions in many parts of the world, it was felt that some changes were now needed. Benefits should be updated to current standards and should be extended to cover some additional work induced disabilities. Organization and administration should be modernized and made more effective. Such changes could be done through a new Workers’ Compensation Act.

While many of the twenty-one proposals of the “White Paper” were fully supported, others were supported in principle or conditionally, and yet others were opposed. A report containing this Committee’s reaction to the “White Paper” was prepared and submitted by the Advisory Council to the Minister of Labour with a request that the Council be given an opportunity to review the proposed changes before their final implementation. Copies of the Committee’s report are available from the Advisory Council’s office.

## Future action

This Committee plans to explore the following areas in the future:

- Use of modern technology to assist the disabled in employment and rehabilitation.
- Recreation for the disabled.
- Drug abuse among the disabled.
- Disability insurance.
- Integration of the disabled into the mainstream.
- Rehabilitation counsellor training.
- Continuation of the study of Worker’s Compensation in Ontario.

## Transportation Committee

Roy Herbert, Chairman  
Karen Glen-Freeland, Vice-Chairman  
Beryl Potter  
Audrey King, Advisor

*Representative to Committee:*

Margaret Young

*Committee Guests:*

Chris Poon  
Ministry of Transportation and Communications

George Svetkoff  
Toronto

Keith Whittaker  
Ministry of Education

J.L. Forster,  
Ministry of Transportation and Communications

## Rural Transportation

During 1983, this Committee continued to study the transportation needs of the disabled in rural areas of the province. Concerns were expressed in recommendations forwarded to the Ministry of Transportation and Communications in 1980.

In June 1983, Council’s Transportation Committee met with representatives of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (M.T.C.) to reiterate it’s concerns relating to rural transportation. The Council was told that the “Transportation Paper” which M.T.C. has prepared includes transportation programs and services for the disabled in rural areas and that a thorough review of this issue was being conducted by the



government. The review includes an analysis of matters such as service level, utilization, financial requirements, and methods of subsidy both for now and in the future.

It was suggested that this issue continue to be pursued by Council's newly appointed Transportation Committee during 1983/84.

## **Motability**

In 1981 this Committee examined the feasibility of a program to provide vehicles to disabled persons who are either drivers or passengers. Information about an existing program in Britain was provided.

The Advisory Council then recommended to the government that a program similar to the British concept be researched with a view to introducing an Ontario version.

In January 1983, through the Provincial Secretary for Social Development, the Advisory Council requested a response from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications regarding the status of this recommendation. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications responded stating that a thorough review of the Ontario transportation program for physically disabled persons was being conducted.

## **Licence plates**

When the Minister of Transportation and Communications announced the issuance of licence plates for the disabled in November 1982, this Committee expressed concern about confusion regarding eligibility for the plates, and felt that the licence plates might displace the parking permits issued by municipalities.

In June 1983 a statement was endorsed by the Council, expressing dissatisfaction with the criteria established for the issuance of the disabled symbol licence plates. Also endorsed was a recommendation that the Ministry of Transportation and Communications prepare and issue to all persons receiving or who have received disabled licence symbol plates, an information brochure setting out the permissible uses, including the limitations on the use of such plates. The Advisory Council expressed willingness to discuss the text of the brochure with the M.T.C.

In reply to Council's statement and recommendation, the Honourable James Snow stated in part "the Municipal Act has recently been amended by Bill 58 to require municipalities with parking by-laws for physically disabled persons to recognize the provincial disabled licence plates as equivalent to their own

permits. The amendment also contained provisions which allow municipalities to recognize each other's permits."

Mr. Snow also stated that his Ministry was developing an educational pamphlet on the disabled symbol licence plates. He pointed out that the pamphlet will be valuable in assuring that applicants are aware of the criteria for the issuance of the plates.

The Ministry agreed that it is important to first develop a set of uniform eligibility criteria which can be used for the issuance of both the municipal permits and the provincial disabled symbol licence plates. Mr. Snow proposed that staff from his Ministry, representatives of the Council, and members of the Ontario Traffic Conference meet in order to develop a consensus on the criteria.

A committee, which includes a representative of the Advisory Council, has since been set up to study the present system of disabled licence plates program and municipal parking permits for the handicapped. It is hoped that some firm recommendations will soon be made regarding the usage of the plates.

## **Transportation for Disabled Children**

In June 1983, as a result of concerns expressed by parents of handicapped children, this Committee looked into some of the transportation problems being encountered by handicapped children.

Although no formal recommendations were made to the government regarding this issue, the following suggestions were conveyed by this Committee to representatives of the Ministry of Education, at a meeting in July 1983:

- The safety of vehicles used to transport handicapped children should be improved.
- Special training and/or orientation should be provided for drivers of vehicles. Such training should include first aid, handling of equipment, and awareness of the special needs of the children.
- Appropriate funds should be allocated to ensure safe vehicles and well-trained drivers.
- Routes should be improved to prevent excessively long trips to and from points of pick up of the handicapped child.
- The integration of handicapped children into the regular school system should be encouraged, as some handicapped children are being tutored at home due to inadequate transportation.

The Committee was told that the Ministry of Education



will issue a memorandum to all School Principals, Boards of Education, and Directors of Education regarding the need for safe transportation of handicapped children and the possible liability in case of injury to the children.

The concerns expressed by this Committee at its July 1983 meeting prompted officials of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to act on these.

## Air Transportation

### Disabled travellers

In October 1983 the Advisory Council received a circular letter from the Canadian Transport Commission (C.T.C.) requesting submissions with respect to the carriage of disabled travellers by domestic air carriers.

Although this Advisory Council deals with provincial matters, and air transportation is under federal jurisdiction, problems relating to this matter have come to Council's attention from time to time. Therefore, Council's Transportation Committee responded to C.T.C.'s letter.

Council's submission to C.T.C. stated in part, that it is appropriate that the airlines provide a "two-for-one" fare policy, thus making travel less prohibitive for a severely disabled person who requires an attendant. The submission also stated that "An attendant should be thought of as a human assistive device whose service cannot, at least at this time, be functionally duplicated by a technical aid. If there is no charge for technical aids such as a wheelchair or a guide dog, then it is unfair to charge for a human aide". The Council felt that clear criteria for this "two-for-one" option should be established in order to prevent abuse by those who are less disabled.

An additional area of concern expressed by Council was the loss of current services. There was a fear that if a "two-for-one" fare policy was adopted, the airline assistance now being provided with the management of luggage, boarding, etc., might decrease and the less disabled person may no longer be able to travel independently.

This Committee plans to follow-up on C.T.C.'s investigation and their intended action relating to this issue.

### Barrier free access

Among the concerns brought to the attention of this Committee early in 1983 was the lack of wheelchair access at Toronto's Lester B. Pearson airport. While this Committee did not spend much time on this issue, attempts were made to discuss the matter with airport officials.

In January 1984, the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, M.P. Minister of Transport, released the Federal Government's Policy on Transportation of Disabled Persons. The Policy represents the technological and managerial problems which limit the mobility of Canadians, including disabled persons.

Mr. Axworthy also announced initiatives to ensure disabled persons equitable service and improved accessibility in federally jurisdictioned transportation modes. Included in the initiatives are the allocation of funds for immediate construction of two elevators at Toronto's Lester B. Pearson Airport (Terminals 1 and 2), and the redesigning of Terminal 1 to provide direct accessibility to planes.

### Future action

This Committee intends to:

- Continue to study rural transportation for the disabled.
- Follow-up the disabled licence plates issue.
- Monitor the progress of the 'motability concept'.
- Further investigate the transportation problems of disabled children.

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## Access Committee

Margaret Anderson, Chairperson  
Ron McInnes, Vice-Chairman  
Athol Layton  
Joseph West, Advisor

### *Representatives to Committee:*

Barbara Hopewell  
Gerry Lucas

### *Committee Guests:*

Gordon Paterson  
Ministry of Government Services  
  
Jurij Senyshyn  
Ontario March of Dimes

## Architectural Awards Program

One of the objectives established by this Committee in 1983 was to develop a means of increasing general awareness for making buildings accessible for the handicapped in Ontario.

The Advisory Council and this Committee continued to work for legislative changes for new and old buildings, but recognized that legislation alone was not sufficient. This Committee felt that public interest and attitudes must be changed in order to alleviate or eliminate physical and communication barriers.

Meetings were held with representatives from the Ontario Architects Association and the Ministry of Government Services to discuss accessibility and a possible means of increasing public awareness and understanding.

This Committee, with the support of the Ontario Architects Association, recommended that the Government of Ontario establish an Architectural Awards Program for Barrier-Free Design. This recommendation was unanimously endorsed by the Advisory Council at its general meeting in December 1983.

This Committee proposed that there be awards for buildings in three categories: 1) residential, 2) commercial, and 3) institutional. In each of these categories awards for new buildings as well as for renovations should be included.

In February 1984 this Committee prepared a proposal outlining the overall criteria for the awards. It also listed the basic criteria, suggestions for the judging committee, intended awards for recipients, types of awards and mechanisms for the awards program and administration.

It was felt that the Awards Program for Barrier-Free Design would be a unique undertaking, as it would add a new dimension to the concept of promoting accessibility and at the same time share innovative ideas in the utilization of design techniques and construction materials. Such a program, if implemented, would encourage the erection of new buildings and the retrofit of old ones, thus promoting equal accessibility for the handicapped in Ontario.

The proposal for the Architectural Awards Program for Barrier-Free Design was forwarded to the Honourable Gordon Dean. Mr. Dean responded, stating in part: "I am quite interested in the proposal and can perceive much merit in such a program. It seems to me that encouragement and recognition are often very effective ways of changing attitudes and behaviour. I am pleased that the Ontario Architects Association are represented on your Committee and have given their support for an Awards program." Mr. Dean suggested that the Secretariat for Disabled Persons office would be the best place for the program co-ordinator of this program to be located.

A meeting was subsequently held with staff of the Secretariat and the Advisory Council to discuss how to proceed with the proposal.

## Other areas of concern

The following additional areas of concerns were identified by this Committee during its deliberations in 1983:

- Although the Ministry of Government Services' office on Barrier Free Design makes technical advice on accessibility available to all government ministries with respect to both new construction and renovations, as well as providing advice to private builders and property owners, it does not provide actual plans or estimates of costs. Also, utilization of this service is not mandatory for either government or private projects.

At the Advisory Council's general meeting in October 1983, this Committee suggested that the Ministry's office on Barrier-Free Design could be a valuable addition to the implementation of the government's commitment to accessibility. However, at present, it was seriously under-utilized. It was suggested that steps be taken to make the services of that office more widely known outside government if, in fact, such services are within their mandate.

The Council also suggested all plans for construction or renovation of government buildings, whether major or minor, should be mandatorily reviewed by the Office on Barrier-Free Design. While the Council

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recognizes that the function of this Office is advisory and specific recommendations are not binding on architects or builders, it was felt that the review and suggestions emanating from that Office would increase awareness of the necessity for accessibility by persons using the service. This, in itself, would be a valuable function.

Through the Honourable Gordon Dean, the above suggestions were forwarded to the Minister of Government Services for comments.

- New buildings in some areas fail to take into consideration the obvious requirements for accessibility, even when they are provided for in the Ontario Building Code. It was felt that this may be due to the fact that the Code is provincial legislation and that the actual administration and enforcement of the Code is left to the discretion of individual municipalities.

- The Building Code is only one of the possible means for increasing accessibility. More emphasis should be placed on increased understanding and awareness of the disabled if progress is to be made in the area of accessibility.

### **Future action:**

This Committee intends to continue to:

- Liaise with the Ontario Association of Building Officials.
- Pursue the issue of retrofitting existing buildings.
- Ensure the development of better access for handicapped persons in Ontario.
- Increase the general awareness of the need to make buildings accessible for the handicapped.
- Continue efforts to discuss amendments to the Ontario Building Code with respect to accessibility.



# Other Areas of Council's Involvement

## April 1983-March 1984

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### Consultation meeting

Since its inception the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped has held Public Forums across the province namely: Cambridge, Kingston, London, Ottawa, St. Catharines, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Timmins, Toronto and Windsor. The aim of the Forums was to meet with representatives of local organizations and agencies, as well as with individuals, to discuss the achievements, needs and concerns of physically handicapped persons in each community.

On September 22nd and 23rd, 1983, the Advisory Council held its first Consultation meeting with major provincial organizations and consumer groups. The meeting took place in the Macdonald Block, Queen's Park, Toronto.

The general purpose of the meeting was to chart plans for meeting both today's needs and the future needs of the physically handicapped community in Ontario.

The Consultation meeting was attended by twenty-one organizations, agencies and consumer groups who made presentations and participated in discussions. These were the Canadian Hearing Society, Ontario Division; the Arthritis Society, Ontario Division; the Easter Seal Society; the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, Ontario Division; the Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario; People United for Self-Help; the Ontario Mission for the Deaf; the Ontario Federation for the Cerebral Palsied; the Canadian National Institute for the Blind; the Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped; the Canadian Council of the Blind; the Canadian Paraplegic Association; the Muscular Dystrophy Association; the Ontario March of Dimes; the Blind Organization of Ontario with Self-Help Tactics; the Canadian Red Cross Society, Ontario Division; the Ontario Chapter of Canadian Coalition for Neurological Diseases; the Association for Children with learning Disabilities; the Ontario Speech and Hearing Association; the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; and Cheshire Homes Foundation Inc.

A wide range of concerns and plans for the future were shared. Many topics of concern were raised repeatedly by several groups. These included:

**Assistive Devices:** Concerns about the lack of assistive devices for adults were repeated most often. Eleven organizations and groups recommended that the present Assistive Devices Program should be expanded as soon as possible.

The Advisory Council's position on the Assistive Devices Program continues to be that: "no priority for such devices should be based on age,

type of disability, cause of disability or level of income". (January 1982)

**Attendant Care:** Various recommendations for the provision of attendant care were put forth by several groups.

The Advisory Council's position on this issue is "that the proposed legislation with regard to home support services include a mechanism to allow for direct payment to individuals in need of services in order for them to design and control a program peculiar to their individual circumstances". (1983)

**Employment/Rehabilitation:** A number of recommendations were made for improvements in Vocational Rehabilitation Services, the Training of Counsellors and Employment opportunities in general.

The Advisory Council's position paper on Employment and Rehabilitation discusses the above three areas and includes recommendations for Affirmative Action and a Quota System for Employment of the Physically Handicapped.

**Ontario Building Code:** Revision of the present Building Code was recommended by five organizations in order that public buildings, homes and apartments be made accessible to all, including the sight and hearing impaired.

**Public Awareness:** Promotion of greater public awareness of disabilities was mentioned or inferred by most participants. This included awareness and understanding as well as efforts towards prevention of disabilities.

**Research into Specific Disabilities:** Research of specific disabilities with regard to prevention and cure was advocated by three organizations who recommended that the Ministry of Health provide research grants for this purpose.

**Personal Income Tax:** Personal income tax and consideration for deductions for the costs of home renovation should be reviewed and adjusted to help the taxpayer who is faced with higher personal living costs due to disability.

**Group Homes:** More independent apartment units with attendant care, as well as group homes with attendant care should be established. The waiting lists in each of the present homes are so great that the current 52 beds allotted by the Province per year is insufficient for meeting the needs of the growing population of the young physically disabled.

**Counselling:** Counselling services for the disabled should be included as a benefit covered by OHIP. This should include the cost of social workers and the services they provide to the physically disabled and their families. In addition, counsellors should be given special training to work with the disabled.

**Medical Costs:** The cost of medical services frequently limit access to the health system. For example, certain top medical specialists require payment for their services before performing surgery.

**Bill 82:** While most of the presenting groups were in favour of Bill 82, some concern was expressed regarding its implementation and the potential implications for teaching staff within the school system.

**Public Information:** Some presenting groups identified the need for a complete listing of all government resources which provide services to the physically disabled and the criteria for the utilization of these services.

**Disability Insurance:** The present system of income compensation for the disabled is fragmented and, as a result, the income needs of many individuals are overlooked. To remedy this situation, it was proposed that a government study be commissioned to consider the introduction of a comprehensive National Disability Insurance Plan.

**Access to Legal Services:** Concern was expressed about the need for the Provincial Government to ensure that all courts and tribunals be accessible, that legal information be available and that community legal aid clinics be accessible to handicapped persons. Judge Abella's recent report was commended for its recommendations.

**Income Maintenance:** The need for the Provincial Government to increase the allowance provided through F.B.A. and GAINS-D in order that it keep pace with the rate of inflation was expressed as a high priority.

The entire presentations and discussions from this two-day consultation meeting were summarized and published in a report which was forwarded to the participants and appropriate government ministries and agencies. Copies of the Report are available from the Council's office.

## Special Education

During the Council's fiscal year 1983-1984 Joseph West represented the Advisory Council on the Special Education Advisory Council of the Ministry of Education.

## Access to Legal Services

In June 1982, the Honourable Roy McMurtry announced a study to investigate problems of access to legal services for physically and mentally handicapped persons in Ontario. This Advisory Council provided comments regarding the terms of reference for the study, and actual cases of problems encountered by handicapped individuals were submitted.

In 1983 the study was completed by Judge Rosalie S. Abella. The report, which includes 100 recommendations pertaining to "Access to Legal Services by the Disabled" was carefully reviewed by this Advisory Council. Council was most impressed with the thoroughness of the report and the insight shown by Judge Abella into the problems which the handicapped encounter in this area. Council approved of all 100 recommendations made and expressed hope that these recommendations would soon be implemented.

## Guest Presentation:

### The Goals of Rehabilitation

At the March 1984 general meeting of the Advisory Council, Dr. D.C. Symington of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at Queen's University addressed the Council on the topic of rehabilitation. A synopsis of his presentation follows:

The goals of rehabilitation should be clearly defined so that it's progress could be measured within a time frame. The present system of service provision to people with disability is very complex, fragmented and costly. Some of the major costs to society associated with disability are "institutional care" and "income support programs".

Quoting 1981 statistics, Dr. Symington stated that \$8 billion is spent on institutional care while the province spends \$600 million a year on disability pensions, of which \$300 million goes to single parents in the form of welfare payments and \$300 million goes to the disabled.

There are two national goals which need action:

- 1) the need to reduce institutional care beds, and
- 2) the need to reduce unemployment among the employable handicapped.

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Dr. Symington stressed that consideration should be given towards improving the organization of services. Research into handicap and rehabilitation continues to be inadequate and there is a need for research funds.

Dr. Symington feels that an important step towards clearly identifying the overall cost of disability to society is the understanding of the international classification of *impairment*, *disability*, and *handicap*. These terms have been classified by the United Nations as follows:

*Impairment* . . . is the loss or abnormality of psychological or anatomical structure or function.

*Disability* . . . is any restriction or lack of ability to perform an activity in a manner which is considered normal.

*Handicap* . . . is a disadvantage for a given individual, resulting from a disability or an impairment, that limits or prevents the fulfillment of a role that is normal for that individual.

Social support is an international concern and problem. Many countries are unable to maintain existing programs. It was speculated that, if present trends for assistance continue, there might ultimately be a serious lack of funds available for required support services programs.



# Council's Guests 1983 – 1984

Meeting Dates	Guests		
June 1983	<p>The Honourable James Snow Minister of Transportation and Communications</p> <p>Sanderson Layng President Canadian Captioning Development Agency</p> <p>Dorothy Lapell Canadian Captioning Development Agency</p>	November 1983	<p>Ethel McLellan Deputy Provincial Secretary Secretariat for Social Development</p> <p>Robert Peacock Special Assistant Secretariat for Social Development</p> <p>Andrew McCarthy Legislative Aide Secretariat for Social Development</p>
October 1983	<p>The Honourable Bruce McCaffrey Provincial Secretary for Social Development</p> <p>Margaret Birch, M.P.P. Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on the Bicentennial</p> <p>Ethel McLellan Deputy Provincial Secretary Secretariat for Social Development</p> <p>Naomi Goldie Executive Assistant Secretariat for Social Development</p> <p>Andrew McCarthy Legislative Aide Secretariat for Social Development</p>		<p>John Nywening Senior Policy Co-ordinator Secretariat for Social Development</p> <p>W.G. Wolfson Executive Co-ordinator Secretariat for Social Development</p>
		March 1984	<p>Dr. D.C. Symington Professor of Rehabilitation Medicine Queen's University, Kingston</p>

Date des réunions		Invités	
Juin 1983	L'honorable James Snow Ministre des Transports et des Communications Sanderson Layng Président Canadian Captioning Development Agency Dorothy Lapell Canadian Captioning Development Agency		
Octobre 1983	L'honorable Bruce McCaffrey Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales Margaret Birch, député provincial Adjointe parlementaire du premier ministre et présidente du comité du bicentenaire au conseil des ministres Ethel McLellan Sous-secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales Naomi Goldie Adjointe administrative Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales Andrew McCarthy Adjoint législatif Secréariat de la province aux Affaires sociales	Mars 1984	
		Ethel McLellan Sous-secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales Robert Peacock Adjoint spécial Secréariat de la province aux Affaires sociales Andrew McCarthy Adjoint législatif Secréariat de la province aux Affaires sociales John Nywening Coordonnateur principal des politiques Secréariat de la province aux Affaires sociales W. G. Wolfson Coordonnateur général — Opérations Secréariat de la province aux Affaires sociales Dr D. C. Symington Professeur de médecine de réadaptation Université Queen's, Kingston	

## Exposé sur la réadaptation, présenté au Conseil par un invité

Lors de l'assemblée générale du Conseil en mars 1984, le Dr D.C. Symington, du département de médecine de réadaptation de l'Université Queen's, a présenté au Conseil un exposé sur la réadaptation. Voici un résumé de cet exposé.

Les objectifs visés par la réadaptation doivent être clairement définis, pour rendre possible l'évaluation périodique des progrès accomplis. Le système actuel de prestation de services aux handicapés est très complexe, fragmenté et coûteux. Une partie des coûts les plus importants pour la société vient des soins en établissement et des programmes de maintien du revenu.

En se fondant sur les statistiques de 1981, le conférencier a souligné que l'Ontario consacre huit milliards de dollars aux soins en établissement et six cents millions de dollars par an en pensions d'invalidité, dont trois cents millions de dollars versés aux parents seuls sous forme de prestations d'aide sociale, et trois cents millions de dollars aux personnes handicapées.

Deux objectifs nationaux requièrent notre attention: 1) la nécessité de réduire le nombre de lits affectés aux soins en établissement; 2) la nécessité de réduire le chômage chez les personnes handicapées aptes à travailler.

Le conférencier a souligné qu'il importe d'améliorer l'organisation des services. La recherche sur les handicaps et la réadaptation est toujours insuffisante, et elle a besoin d'être financée.

Le Dr Symington croit que pour définir clairement l'ensemble des coûts que représente l'invalidité pour la société, il importe de bien comprendre les définitions qui ont été données par les Nations Unies aux termes suivants: affaiblissement, incapacité et handicap:

*Affaiblissement* . . . Il s'agit de la perte ou de l'état anormal d'une fonction psychologique ou anatomique.

*Incapacité* . . . Il s'agit d'une limitation ou d'un manque d'aptitude à exercer une activité d'une façon considérée normale.

*Handicap* . . . Il s'agit d'un désavantage dont souffre une personne, à la suite d'une faiblesse ou d'une incapacité, qui l'empêche, en tout ou en partie, de remplir un rôle normal.

L'appui nécessaire de la société est une préoccupation internationale. Bien des pays sont incapables de maintenir leurs programmes en vigueur. Il se peut même que, si les tendances actuelles de demande d'assistance se maintiennent, il y ait un manque important de fonds disponibles pour les programmes de services de soutien.



**Impôt sur le revenu:** L'impôt sur le revenu et les déductions au titre de la rénovation domiciliaire devraient faire l'objet d'une révision et tenir compte des dépenses plus élevées que doivent faire les contribuables en raison d'une invalidité.

**Foyers de groupe:** Un plus grand nombre d'immeubles domiciliaires comportant des services à domicile, ainsi que des foyers de groupe comportant ces mêmes services, devraient être construits. Les listes d'attente dans les foyers actuels sont tellement longues que les 52 lits par année autorisés par la province sont insuffisants pour répondre aux besoins du nombre toujours plus grand de jeunes handicapés physiques.

**Counseling:** Le coût des services de counseling pour les handicapés physiques devrait être assumé par le régime d'assurance-maladie de l'Ontario (OHIP), y compris le coût des travailleurs sociaux et les services qu'ils dispensent aux handicapés physiques et à leur famille. En outre, ces conseillers devraient avoir une formation spéciale pour travailler avec les personnes handicapées.

**Frais médicaux:** Le coût des services médicaux limite souvent l'accès aux services de santé. Par exemple, certains éminents spécialistes exigent le paiement de leurs services avant une intervention chirurgicale.

**Loi 82:** La plupart des groupes sont en faveur du projet de loi 82, mais ont exprimé une certaine inquiétude touchant sa mise en oeuvre et ses incidences sur le personnel enseignant du système scolaire.

**Information du public:** Quelques groupes ont parlé de la nécessité de dresser une liste complète de toutes les ressources gouvernementales qui dispensent des services aux handicapés physiques, et des critères d'admissibilité à ces services.

**Assurance-invalidité:** Le système actuel d'indemnisation des personnes handicapées est fragmenté et ne peut tenir compte des besoins d'un grand nombre de handicapés. Pour remédier à cette situation, on recommande la mise en oeuvre d'une commission d'étude sur l'adoption d'un régime national complet d'assurance-invalidité.

**Maintien du revenu:** La nécessité pour le gouvernement provincial d'accroître les allocations au titre de la Loi sur les prestations familiales et le régime de revenu annuel garanti (GAINS-D) pour tenir compte de l'inflation devrait être prioritaire. Les exposés et les échanges au cours de ces deux jours ont été résumés et publiés dans un rapport, qui a été remis aux participants, ainsi qu'aux organismes et aux ministères concernés. On peut se procurer ce rapport au siège du Conseil.

## Enfance en difficulté

Au cours de l'année 1983-1984, M. Joseph West représentait le Conseil auprès du Conseil consultatif sur l'enfance en difficulté, du ministère de l'Éducation.

## Accès aux services juridiques

En juin 1982, l'honorable Roy McMurtry annonçait qu'une étude serait entreprise sur l'accessibilité des handicapés physiques et mentaux de l'Ontario aux services juridiques. Le Conseil a fait part de ses observations sur la nature du mandat, et soumis des exemples de cas réels touchant des personnes handicapées.

En 1983, le juge Rosalie S. Abella remettait son rapport, qui comprend 100 recommandations, que le Conseil a étudiées avec soin, sur l'accessibilité des personnes handicapées aux services juridiques. Le Conseil a été frappé par le caractère approfondi de cette étude et la perspicacité avec laquelle le juge Abella analyse les problèmes que connaissent les handicapés dans ce domaine. Le Conseil a approuvé toutes les recommandations présentées et exprimé le voeu qu'elles soient rapidement mises en oeuvre.

## Accès aux services juridiques: Des préoccupations

ont été exprimées sur l'importance pour le gouvernement provincial de s'assurer que les tribunaux, l'information juridique et les centres communautaires d'aide juridique sont accessibles aux personnes handicapées. Les recommandations contenues dans le récent rapport du juge Abella ont été applaudies.

Consultations

Depuis sa création, le Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques a organisé des débats publics dans divers endroits de la province, entre autres, Cambridge, Kingston, London, Ottawa, St. Catharines, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Timmins, Toronto et Windsor. Il entendait ainsi rencontrer les représentants des divers organismes locaux et le public pour discuter des réalisations, des besoins et des préoccupations des handicapés physiques dans chaque région.

Les 22 et 23 septembre 1983, le Conseil a tenu sa première rencontre de consultation avec les principaux organismes provinciaux et le public. Cette rencontre a eu lieu à Toronto, à Queen's Park, dans l'édifice Macdonald.

L'objectif général de cette rencontre était d'élaborer un programme d'ensemble pour mieux répondre aux besoins actuels et futurs des handicapés physiques en Ontario.

Tous les membres du Conseil ont pris part à cette rencontre, et vingt et un organismes et groupes provinciaux ont participé aux exposés et aux discussions: la Canadian Hearing Society, division de l'Ontario; l'Arthritis Society, division de l'Ontario; la Société des timbres de Pâques; la Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, division de l'Ontario; la Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario; la People United for Self-Help; l'Ontario Mission for the Deaf; l'Ontario Federation for the Cerebral Palsied; l'Institut national canadien pour les aveugles; The Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped; le Canadian Council of the Blind; la Canadian Paraplegic Association; la Muscular Dystrophy Association; la Marche des dix sous de l'Ontario; la Blind Organization of Ontario with Self-Help Tactics; la Société canadienne de la Croix-Rouge, division ontarienne; l'Ontario Chapter of Canadian Coalition for Neurological Diseases; l'Association for Children with learning Disabilities; l'Ontario Speech and Hearing Association; la Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; et la Cheshire Homes Foundation Inc.

Les participants ont partagé bien des préoccupations et élaboré des plans pour l'avenir. Plusieurs groupes ont soulévé un grand nombre de sujets communs et de préoccupations.

Appareils et prothèses: Les préoccupations

touchant le manque d'appareils et de prothèses pour les adultes ont été les plus fréquemment exprimées. Onze organismes et groupes ont recommandé que le programme actuel d'appareils et de prothèses soit le plus tôt possible élargi. Sur cette question, le Conseil maintient la position suivante: "les appareils et prothèses ne devraient faire l'objet d'aucune priorité fondée sur l'âge, la nature de l'invalidité, la cause de l'incapacité ou le revenu". (Janvier 1982)

Soins individuels dispensés par un préposé:

Diverses recommandations sur les soins individuels dispensés par un préposé ont été faites par plusieurs groupes.

Le Conseil rappelle sa position sur cette question: "que le projet de loi relatif aux services d'aide à domicile doit prévoir un système qui permette d'indemniser directement les personnes qui ont besoin de ces services afin qu'elles puissent concevoir un programme de services axé sur leur situation particulière et avoir droit de regard sur ce programme". (1983)

Emploi et réadaptation: Un certain nombre de

recommandations ont été faites en vue d'apporter des améliorations aux services de réadaptation professionnelle, à la formation des conseillers et aux possibilités d'emploi en général. La position du Conseil figure dans un énoncé de principe sur l'emploi et la réadaptation, qui discute de ces trois domaines et recommande des mesures d'action positive et un système de quota pour l'emploi des handicapés physiques.

Code du bâtiment de l'Ontario: Cinq organismes

ont recommandé que le Code du bâtiment soit révisé de façon à rendre les immeubles publics, les logements et les appartements accessibles à tous, y compris aux personnes qui ont des troubles de la vue et de l'ouïe.

Sensibilisation du public: La plupart des

participants ont parlé de la nécessité de sensibiliser davantage le public aux déficiences physiques, notamment aux efforts qui sont faits en matière de prévention de ces incapacités.

Recherche spéciale sur certaines incapacités:

Trois organismes ont préconisé des recherches sur la prévention et le traitement de certaines déficiences, et recommandé que le ministère de la Santé fournisse des fonds à cette fin.

Autres préoccupations

- Voici quelques autres sujets de préoccupation qui ont fait l'objet des délibérations du comité en 1983:
- Le ministère des Services gouvernementaux, par l'entremise du bureau sur l'accessibilité aux immeubles publics, fournit des conseils techniques en cette matière à tous les ministères, tant pour les nouvelles constructions que pour les rénovations, ainsi qu'aux constructeurs privés et aux propriétaires d'immeubles, mais il ne fournit pas de plans d'architecture ni d'estimation des coûts. En outre, il n'est pas obligatoire de recourir à ses services, tant pour les projets publics que pour les projets privés.
  - Lors de l'assemblée générale du Conseil en octobre 1983, le comité a reconnu que le bureau sur l'accessibilité, du ministère des Services gouvernementaux, pourrait renforcer considérablement la détermination du gouvernement à l'égard de l'accessibilité. Pourtant, à l'heure actuelle, on recourt rarement à ses services. Des mesures pourraient être prises pour les faire connaître davantage en dehors des milieux gouvernementaux, si cela est compatible avec le mandat du bureau.
  - Le Conseil a également proposé que tous les projets, importants ou modestes, de construction ou de rénovation des immeubles gouvernementaux soient obligatoirement revus par ce bureau. Tout en reconnaissant que le bureau n'aurait qu'un rôle consultatif et que ses recommandations ne lieraient pas les architectes et les constructeurs, le Conseil est d'avis que le travail de révision et les suggestions du bureau sensibiliseraient davantage les personnes qui ont recours à ses services à la nécessité de l'accessibilité des immeubles publics. En soi, cette fonction serait très importante.

Projets

- Voici quelques sujets dont le comité continuera de s'occuper:
- établir des contacts avec l'Ontario Association of Building Officials;
  - approfondir la question de la rénovation des immeubles existants;
  - favoriser encore davantage une meilleure accessibilité des personnes handicapées aux établissements publics en Ontario;
  - sensibiliser davantage le public à la nécessité de favoriser l'accessibilité des personnes handicapées aux bâtiments publics;
  - intensifier les efforts pour discuter des modifications à apporter en cette matière au Code du bâtiment de l'Ontario.
- Le Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales a communiqué les suggestions ci-dessus au ministre des Services gouvernementaux.
  - Dans certains endroits, de nouveaux bâtiments sont construits sans qu'il soit tenu compte des exigences évidentes touchant l'accessibilité, même lorsque le Code ontarien du bâtiment les prescrit. Cela vient peut-être du fait que le Code est une loi provinciale dont l'administration est laissée à la discrétion de chaque municipalité.
  - Le Code du bâtiment de l'Ontario constitue l'un des divers moyens possibles pour accroître l'accessibilité des lieux publics. Il importe de mettre davantage l'accent sur la nécessité de sensibiliser les personnes handicapées, pour que des progrès soient faits dans ce domaine.



Le ministre a annoncé quelques initiatives permettant d'assurer aux personnes handicapées un service équitable et une meilleure accessibilité aux installations de transport qui relèvent de la compétence du gouvernement fédéral. Ces mesures comprennent notamment l'affectation de fonds pour la construction immédiate de deux ascenseurs à l'aéroport Lester B. Pearson de Toronto (Terminaux 1 et 2) et la rénovation du Terminal 1 pour permettre l'accès direct aux avions.

**Projets**

Voici quelques sujets dont le comité entend s'occuper :

- Poursuivre l'étude du transport rural à l'intention des personnes handicapées
- Suivre l'évolution de la question des plaques d'immatriculation
- Suivre l'évolution de la "notion de mobilité"
- Poursuivre l'étude des problèmes de transport des enfants handicapés

## Comité sur l'accessibilité

Margaret Anderson, présidente  
 Ron McInnes, vice-président  
 Athol Layton  
 Joseph West, conseiller

*Délégués auprès du comité :*  
 Barbara Hopewell  
 Gerry Lucas

*Invités du comité :*

Gordon Paterson  
 Ministère des Services gouvernementaux  
 Jurij Senyshyn  
 Marche des dix sous de l'Ontario

## Programme de prix d'architecture

L'un des objectifs établis par le comité en 1983 était de trouver les moyens de mieux sensibiliser le public à l'amélioration de voies d'accès aux immeubles publics pour les handicapés physiques de l'Ontario. Le Conseil et le comité ont poursuivi leur travail en vue d'apporter des amendements aux lois, tant en ce qui concerne les anciens immeubles que les nouveaux. Mais il ne suffit pas de changer les lois. Le comité est d'avis qu'il faut modifier la mentalité du public si l'on veut réduire ou éliminer les obstacles à l'accessibilité et à la communication.

Le comité a organisé des rencontres avec des représentants de l'Ontario Architects Association et le ministère des Services gouvernementaux pour discuter de cette question de l'accessibilité et des moyens de mieux sensibiliser le public.

Avec l'appui de l'Ontario Architects Association, le comité a recommandé au gouvernement de l'Ontario d'instituer un programme de prix d'architecture pour favoriser la construction d'immeubles accessibles aux handicapés physiques. Le Conseil a adopté cette recommandation à l'unanimité lors de son assemblée générale de décembre 1983.

Le comité a proposé trois catégories de prix selon les catégories de bâtiments : 1) bâtiments domiciliaires; 2) bâtiments commerciaux; 3) immeubles institutionnels. Dans chacune de ces catégories, des prix seraient accordés tant pour la rénovation de bâtiments existants que pour les nouvelles constructions.

En février 1984, le comité a élaboré un projet de critères généraux d'attribution des prix, comportant également des critères particuliers, ainsi que des suggestions touchant le jury, les catégories de prix, la nature des prix et les mécanismes d'administration du programme.

Le comité est d'avis que ces prix d'architecture auraient un caractère vraiment unique, car ils confèreraient une nouvelle dimension à l'importance de l'accessibilité et permettraient de faire connaître de nouvelles utilisations des techniques de conception et des matériaux de construction. La mise en oeuvre de ce programme encouragerait les constructions nouvelles et la rénovation des anciens immeubles, et faciliterait ainsi l'accessibilité des personnes handicapées aux établissements publics en Ontario.

Ce projet de création de prix d'architecture a été présenté au Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales, qui lui a trouvé un grand intérêt et beaucoup de mérite. "Il me semble que l'encouragement et la reconnaissance sont souvent très efficaces pour aider à modifier les attitudes et le comportement. Je suis heureux que l'Ontario Architects Association fasse partie de votre comité et appuie ce programme." Selon le Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales, le meilleur endroit pour assurer la coordination de ce programme serait le siège du Secréariat des personnes handicapées.

Une rencontre fut ensuite organisée entre le personnel du Secréariat et le Conseil pour discuter des façons d'aller de l'avant.

système actuel des plaques provinciales d'immatriculation pour les handicapés et les permis de stationnement municipaux accordés aux handicapés. Des recommandations fermes touchant l'utilisation de ces plaques devraient bientôt être présentées.

### Transport des enfants handicapés

En juin 1983, à la suite de préoccupations exprimées par les parents d'enfants handicapés, le comité a étudié certains des problèmes de transport que connaissent les enfants handicapés.

Aucune recommandation officielle n'a été présentée au gouvernement sur cette question, mais le comité a fait les suggestions suivantes aux représentants du ministère de l'Éducation, lors d'une rencontre en juillet 1983:

- La sécurité des véhicules qui assurent le transport des enfants handicapés devrait être améliorée.
- Un cours spécial de formation ou d'orientation devrait être dispensé aux conducteurs de ces véhicules, notamment sur les premiers soins, la manipulation des appareils, les besoins spéciaux des enfants.
- Des fonds appropriés devraient être affectés à la sécurité des véhicules et à la formation des conducteurs.
- Les parcours devraient être améliorés, pour éviter les longues distances entre les points de ramassage des enfants handicapés.

- L'intégration des enfants handicapés au système scolaire régulier devrait être encouragée, certains enfants handicapés devant recevoir un enseignement à domicile par suite de l'insuffisance du système de transport.

Le comité a appris que le ministère de l'Éducation enverrait une note aux directeurs d'écoles, aux conseils de l'éducation et aux directeurs de l'éducation pour leur rappeler la nécessité de la sécurité du transport des enfants handicapés et les responsabilités légales à assumer en cas d'accident.

Les préoccupations exprimées par le comité lors de cette rencontre de juillet 1983 ont incité les responsables du ministère de l'Éducation et du ministère des Transports et des Communications à s'occuper de la question.

### Transport aérien

- Voyageurs handicapés  
En octobre 1983, le Conseil recevait de la Commission canadienne des transports (CCT) une lettre circulaire sollicitant des mémoires à propos du transport des personnes handicapées par les transporteurs aériens au Canada.

Le Conseil ne s'occupe que de questions à caractère provincial, et le transport aérien est de juridiction fédérale. Occasionnellement, cependant, certains problèmes sur cette question avaient déjà été soumis à son attention. Il a donc préparé un mémoire à l'intention de la CCT.

Dans son mémoire, le Conseil déclare qu'il trouverait approprié que les transporteurs aériens permettent dans certains cas à deux personnes de voyager pour le prix d'une, ce qui permettrait aux personnes gravement handicapées qui ont besoin d'un accompagnateur de voyager plus facilement. Le mémoire poursuit: "Cet accompagnateur peut être considéré comme un soutien humain dont le rôle, du moins à ce moment-là, ne peut être rempli comme il faut par un soutien technique. S'il n'y a pas de frais pour les soutiens techniques comme les fauteuils roulants ou les chiens d'aveugles, il serait injuste qu'il y en ait pour les soutiens humains." Pour éviter des abus de la part des personnes souffrant de handicaps mineurs, le Conseil précise que des critères d'admissibilité devraient être clairement établis.

Le Conseil a également exprimé sa crainte que les services actuellement offerts ne diminuent. Il ne faudrait pas qu'en permettant aux personnes gravement handicapées de se faire accompagner, sans majoration du prix du billet, par un "aide humain", les transporteurs aériens réduisent les services qu'ils offrent actuellement (bagages, embarquement, etc.), car les personnes moins handicapées ne pourraient plus voyager seules.

Le comité continuera à étudier cette question et les mesures qu'entend prendre la CCT.

- Accès direct aux avions

Parmi les questions portées à l'attention du comité au début de 1983, il y avait le manque d'accès à l'aérogare Lester B. Pearson de Toronto pour les personnes en fauteuil roulant. Le comité a discuté de cette question avec les responsables de l'aérogare à quelques reprises. En janvier 1984, le ministre fédéral des Transports, l'honorable Lloyd Axworthy, rendait publique la politique du gouvernement fédéral sur le transport des personnes handicapées. Cette politique fait état, entre autres, des problèmes d'ordre technologique et administratif qui réduisent la mobilité des Canadiens, y compris celle des personnes handicapées.



## Comité sur le transport

Roy Herbert, président  
Karen Glen-Freeland, vice-présidente  
Beryl Potter  
Audrey King, conseillère

*Députée auprès du comité:*

Margaret Young

*Invités du comité:*

Chris Poon  
Ministère des Transports et des Communications

George Svetkoff

Toronto

Keith Whittaker

Ministère de l'Éducation

J. L. Forster

Ministère des Transports et des Communications

## Transport rural

Le comité a poursuivi, en 1983, son étude sur les besoins des handicapés physiques en matière de transport rural en Ontario. En 1980, il avait déjà soumis des recommandations à l'attention du ministère des Transports et des Communications.

En juin 1983, le comité a rencontré des représentants de ce ministère pour leur réitérer ses préoccupations touchant le transport rural. Il a appris que le ministère avait élaboré un document qui prévoit la prestation de programmes et services de transport aux personnes handicapées dans les régions rurales. En outre, le gouvernement procède à une étude complète de cette question, qui porte notamment sur l'analyse des services offerts, de leur utilisation, des besoins financiers et des méthodes de financement actuelles et futures.

Cette question devrait continuer de faire l'objet des travaux du nouveau comité nommé en 1984.

## Notion de mobilité

En 1981, le comité a étudié la possibilité de mettre sur pied un programme permettant de fournir des véhicules aux handicapés, qu'ils soient conducteurs ou passagers. Il s'était auparavant renseigné sur l'existence d'un programme de cette nature en Grande-Bretagne. Le Conseil avait alors recommandé au gouvernement une étude sur la possibilité d'adopter en Ontario un programme s'inspirant du système britannique.

En janvier 1983, par l'entremise du Secrétaire de la

## Plaques d'immatriculation

Lorsque le ministère des Transports et des Communications a annoncé, en novembre 1982, l'émission de plaques d'immatriculation à l'intention des personnes handicapées, le comité s'était inquiété du fait que le droit à ces plaques prêtait à confusion, et qu'elles risquaient de supplanter les permis de stationnement accordés par les municipalités.

En juin 1983, le Conseil adoptait une déclaration dans laquelle il exprimait son insatisfaction touchant les critères établis pour la délivrance de plaques portant le symbole international des handicapés, et recommandait au ministère des Transports et des Communications de préparer et de remettre à tous ceux qui avaient reçu ou allaient recevoir ces plaques une brochure expliquant les droits que confèrent ces plaques et les limites de leur utilisation. Il se disait prêt à discuter avec le ministère du texte de cette brochure.

Dans sa réponse, le ministre des Transports et des Communications, M. James Snow, a fait savoir au Conseil que la Loi sur les municipalités avait été récemment amendée par la loi 58, qui demande aux municipalités qui ont adopté des règlements sur le stationnement des handicapés physiques de reconnaître les plaques d'immatriculation provinciales des handicapés au même titre que leurs propres permis. L'amendement contenait également des dispositions sur la reconnaissance par les diverses municipalités des permis qu'elles délivrent.

Le ministre a également fait savoir que son ministère préparait une brochure sur les plaques d'immatriculation portant le symbole international des handicapés, et soulignait que cette brochure permettrait de s'assurer que ceux qui demandent ces plaques en connaissent bien les critères de délivrance.

Le ministère ajoutait qu'il est important de commencer par élaborer un ensemble de critères uniformes d'admissibilité, qui peuvent servir à la fois à la délivrance des permis municipaux et des plaques provinciales. Il portait le symbole international des handicapés. Il suggérait une rencontre entre le personnel de son ministère, des représentants du Conseil et l'Ontario Traffic Conference pour s'entendre sur ces critères. Depuis lors, un comité a été mis sur pied, dont fait partie un représentant du Conseil, pour étudier le



la réadaptation vise à permettre aux personnes handicapées de vivre le plus dignement possible en se donnant des objectifs appropriés et réalistes, dans le cadre d'un processus continu dépendant de l'évolution de l'environnement, de la technique, des besoins et des objectifs; des services complets de réadaptation (appareils, prothèses, programmes de formation et services d'appui) nécessaires pour aider la personne handicapée à se développer au maximum devraient être constamment disponibles, de façon équitable, à l'intention de toutes les personnes handicapées.

Que l'injustice et l'inégalité du non-système actuel d'indemnisation ont fait l'objet de nombreux rapports soumis à l'attention des autorités provinciales et fédérales, et qu'il ne semble pas que la situation ait été quelque peu améliorée; il est urgent de mettre sur pied un système complet et intégré pour la prestation de services de réadaptation aux personnes handicapées en Ontario.

Il est donc résolu

que le gouvernement de l'Ontario institue un comité de travail chargé d'élaborer un modèle de régime universel d'indemnisation en cas d'invalidité, qui permette d'assurer à tous un revenu et des prestations de réadaptation. Toutes les indemnisations auxquelles une personne peut être admissible devraient être intégrées à ce régime, pour en faire un régime complet.

Le comité de travail devrait établir un seul minimal d'indemnisation touchant le revenu et les frais de réadaptation, fondé sur la gravité de l'invalidité."

Le Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales a fait savoir au Conseil que sa recommandation touchant l'adoption d'un régime universel d'indemnisation en cas d'invalidité avait été communiquée au ministère concerné.

### Indemnisation des victimes d'accidents du travail

En 1983, le comité a poursuivi l'étude des questions touchant l'emploi et la réadaptation des handicapés physiques. C'est ainsi qu'il a poursuivi son examen des services de réadaptation, des prestations, du fonctionnement et de l'administration de la Commission des accidents du travail de l'Ontario.

- Voici quelques sujets de préoccupation dont le comité entend s'occuper:
- utilisation de la technologie moderne, pour aider les handicapés physiques en matière de réadaptation et d'emploi;
  - les loisirs et les personnes handicapées;
  - l'abus de substances toxiques chez les personnes handicapées;
  - l'assurance-invalidité;
  - l'intégration sociale des personnes handicapées;
  - la formation de conseillers en réadaptation;
  - poursuite de l'étude sur la Commission des accidents du travail de l'Ontario.

### Projets

En plus d'organiser des rencontres avec des représentants de la Commission des accidents du travail, des prestataires de cette commission et des employeurs, le comité a étudié les documents pertinents touchant l'indemnisation des victimes d'accidents du travail en Ontario. En décembre 1983, il a terminé l'étude du Livre blanc du ministère du Travail sur la Loi sur les accidents du travail et les 21 recommandations que l'on y trouve.

La Loi ontarienne sur les accidents du travail, considérée comme un modèle, et qui a inspiré d'autres gouvernements dans bien des pays, doit aujourd'hui être modifiée. Les prestations qui y sont prévues doivent être adaptées en fonction des normes actuelles et couvrir également certaines invalidités découlant du travail. L'organisation et l'administration de cette loi doivent être modernisées et plus efficaces. Les changements apportés pourraient donner lieu à une nouvelle loi sur les accidents du travail.

Le comité appuie sans réserve un grand nombre des 21 recommandations du Livre blanc, en accepte d'autres de façon conditionnelle, et s'oppose à quelques-unes. Il a élaboré un rapport sur ses réactions au Livre blanc, que le Conseil a soumis au ministre du Travail, en le priant de lui faire connaître les changements proposés avant leur adoption finale. On peut se procurer le rapport du comité au siège du Conseil.

ce problème, ses causes et ses conséquences, et les programmes élaborés pour le résoudre.

Ce rapport apporte une contribution importante à l'étude des toxicomanies chez les handicapés physiques en Ontario. Le comité croit cependant que certains points du rapport ne sont pas suffisamment fondés et doivent être clarifiés. Il a fait part de ses observations à cette fin au Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales, et lui a également soumis les recommandations suivantes:

"1. Un programme de formation devrait être disponible dans toute la province aux fins suivantes:

- a) formation du personnel des organismes qui s'occupent des handicapés physiques, touchant le traitement, les centres de ressources et la prévention des toxicomanies;
- b) formation du personnel des centres de désintoxication, pour l'aider à comprendre les besoins spéciaux des handicapés physiques.

2. Les organismes qui offrent leurs services aux toxicomanes devraient être encouragés, et aidés au besoin, à rendre leurs installations accessibles aux handicapés physiques.

3. Un centre de recherche devrait être créé pour faire la collecte des données, conseiller les méthodes appropriées de traitement et de prévention, et élaborer et diffuser du matériel sur le traitement et la prévention des toxicomanies chez les handicapés physiques.

4. Un centre de traitement devrait être créé à l'intention des handicapés physiques alcooliques ou toxicomanes qui ne peuvent être admis, pour une raison ou pour une autre, dans un centre communautaire de traitement. Ce centre devrait être accessible et doté des services appropriés d'aide médicale. Il devrait pouvoir faire des recherches et servir de centre de formation aux spécialistes dans ce domaine."

Le comité a également indiqué que les organismes existants en Ontario pourraient être encouragés à réaliser ces projets.

### Assurance-invalidité

Il y a déjà quelques années que le comité se préoccupe des injustices que subissent les handicapés physiques en Ontario en ce qui a trait à la disponibilité des services

d'indemnisation (indemnisation financière et réadaptation). Un grand nombre de personnes, d'organismes et d'associations ont aussi exprimé les mêmes préoccupations, tant à l'échelon fédéral que provincial.

Le comité a tenu plusieurs rencontres pour discuter de cette question. Une évidence s'impose: au lieu d'être fixés en fonction de l'importance de l'invalidité ou des besoins particuliers des handicapés physiques, les indemnisations et les frais de réadaptation sont accordés selon l'endroit où l'invalidité s'est produite et la façon dont elle est survenue.

À l'heure actuelle, il faut s'adresser à diverses sources pour toucher des indemnisations et avoir droit à un programme de rééducation: la Commission des accidents du travail, la Commission d'assurance-chômage, le ministère des Anciens combattants, la Loi sur les prestations familiales, Emploi et Immigration Canada, et divers régimes privés d'assurance. Quelques tentatives ont été faites en vue de coordonner certains de ces services, mais les injustices sont encore trop grandes.

Le comité est d'avis qu'il est urgent d'élaborer un régime universel complet d'assurance-invalidité, qui assurerait une indemnisation et des services de réadaptation de façon équitable à tous les handicapés physiques en Ontario. Ce régime devrait être fondé sur la nature et l'importance de l'invalidité, et sur les besoins particuliers des personnes handicapées.

Il a donc élaboré la résolution suivante, que le Conseil a soumise à l'attention du Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales:

"Attendu qu'une invalidité peut survenir en tout temps, par suite d'une anomalie congénitale, d'un traumatisme à la naissance, d'une maladie, d'une négligence ou d'une blessure, et que sa gravité n'est pas fonction de sa cause; des services de réadaptation et une indemnisation devraient être fournis en fonction de l'importance de l'invalidité, et non de sa cause.

la déficience dont souffre la personne handicapée dépend de l'importance de l'invalidité et de ses effets sur le développement réaliste de toutes ses possibilités; la détermination de l'indemnisation devrait donc être faite en fonction du potentiel, du travail et du mode de vie de la personne handicapée.



Éducation des enfants handicapés

Le Conseil a donc adopté la recommandation suivante, qu'il a présentée au Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales: "que les soins orthodontiques dont ont besoin les enfants qui souffrent d'une fissure congénitale du palais osseux soient assumés par le régime d'assurance-maladie de l'Ontario, et que les appareils et prothèses requis soient couverts par le Programme d'appareils et de prothèses". Au 31 mars 1984, le comité n'avait pas encore reçu de réponse.

Le comité s'est penché sur les effets de la loi 82 sur l'éducation des enfants handicapés en Ontario.

Des rencontres ont été organisées avec des représentants du ministère de l'Éducation, du Bloorview Children's Hospital, de la W. Ross Macdonald School et quelques parents pour étudier cette loi, qui confie aux conseils d'éducation locaux la responsabilité du placement et de la formation des enfants handicapés dans leur territoire. Il fut souligné que les conseils scolaires peuvent élaborer des programmes dans des écoles provinciales, à l'aide des fonds prévus à cette fin. Certains se sont cependant inquiétés de l'insuffisance des fonds fournis aux conseils scolaires locaux pour ces programmes.

Le comité a également étudié le problème que pose l'apprentissage des enfants qui souffrent de troubles de la vue. Un enfant sur mille souffre de troubles de la vue; 80 % d'entre eux peuvent lire et profiter des services des conseils scolaires, et 20 % n'ont aucune vision et ont besoin de fréquenter une école provinciale pour aveugles. Il semble que l'école W. Ross Macdonald de Brantford soit l'une des mieux équipées pour aider ces enfants dans leur apprentissage. Cette école sert également de centre de ressources pour les conseils scolaires.

Pour assurer la prestation de ses services aux élèves atteints de troubles visuels, le ministère de l'Éducation a divisé l'Ontario en six régions, qui doivent chacune avoir un conseiller spécial. Pourtant, les six conseillers qui existent se trouvent à Brantford, ce qui entraîne souvent de longs délais en matière de consultation et de matériel éducatif.

Le comité se propose d'évaluer l'efficacité de la mise en oeuvre de la loi 82 pour fournir les services éducatifs nécessaires aux enfants handicapés.

Autres préoccupations

Le comité a défini quelques autres sujets de préoccupation dont il a l'intention de s'occuper:

Les toxicomanies et les handicapés physiques

Le comité s'est préoccupé de l'abus de substances toxiques par les handicapés physiques en Ontario. En 1983, il a fait part de ses préoccupations au Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales, qui lui a demandé d'élaborer un projet d'étude sur cette question. Après des discussions sur ce projet, le Secréariat des personnes handicapées a été invité à préparer un document préliminaire sur les toxicomanies et les handicapés physiques.

On peut se procurer au siège du Conseil un résumé du rapport sur cette question. Ce rapport présente des données empiriques et des opinions sur l'incidence de

Comité sur l'emploi et la réadaptation

- le financement de l'enseignement à l'enfance en difficulté dans les écoles secondaires et les services d'aide en matière de santé;
- les incidences de la loi 82 sur l'éducation des enfants handicapés;
- le manque de spécialistes dans les centres pour enfants handicapés;
- les soins orthodontiques aux enfants qui présentent une fissure congénitale du palais osseux;
- un registre approprié pour les enfants handicapés;
- la supervision continue du programme de prestations pour enfants handicapés.

William Murdock, président  
Fernand Dame, vice-président  
Dr Albin Jousse  
Joseph West, conseiller

Délégué auprès du comité:

Dr Victor Bennett

Invités du comité:

Marilyn Ginsburg  
Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped

B. Lomax

Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsied

Dorothy Jenner

Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsied

Harry Sanders

Commission des accidents du travail

Jon Kelly

Ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires



Betty Jean MacDonald  
Ministère de la Santé  
John Montague  
Bloorview Children's Hospital  
Jack Gourlia  
Conseil de l'éducation de Toronto

## Les spécialistes des centres pour enfants handicapés

Parmi les diverses questions dont s'est préoccupé le comité, soulignons le manque de spécialistes de la réadaptation dans les centres de traitement des enfants handicapés dans certaines régions de l'Ontario.

La Société des timbres de Pâques a fait une enquête dans dix-neuf centres de la province pour savoir si le manque de spécialistes (physiothérapeutes, ergothérapeutes et orthophonistes) constituait un problème grave. L'enquête révèle que dans la région de Toronto ce problème est presque inexistant, contrairement aux régions éloignées.

Selon les résultats de l'enquête, le manque de spécialistes de la réadaptation dans ces centres s'expliquerait en partie par le fait qu'un nombre insuffisant de spécialistes sont formés et qu'ils ne sont pas prêts à s'installer dans des régions où les salaires sont inférieurs et les possibilités de formation continue difficilement accessibles. Comme il est difficile de recruter des diplômés canadiens qualifiés, certains centres ont dû embaucher des spécialistes des États-Unis.

Le comité est d'avis que ce problème mérite une attention particulière, notamment le manque d'orthophonistes. A sa réunion de décembre 1983, le Conseil a donc adopté la recommandation suivante: "que le Conseil demande au Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales d'effectuer une enquête sur la disponibilité, la formation et les salaires des orthophonistes en Ontario, et que des mesures soient prises pour chercher à résoudre les problèmes existants".

Le Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales a fait savoir au Conseil que le ministère de l'Éducation et le ministère de la Santé avaient été chargés d'étudier la question.

## La loi sur les services à l'enfance et à la famille

Au cours de l'année 1983-1984, le comité a étudié la loi sur les services à l'enfance et à la famille.

Lors de l'assemblée générale du Conseil en mars 1984, le comité a recommandé que l'on reconnaisse expressément dans cette loi les enfants atteints d'un handicap physique, qui ont des besoins différents de ceux des enfants visés par la Loi sur les services favorisant le développement de la personne. Cette recommandation a été communiquée au Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales, qui n'en avait pas encore accusé réception à la fin de mars 1984.

## Prestations pour enfants handicapés

Il y a déjà quelque temps que le comité se préoccupe des difficultés qu'éprouvent certaines familles qui ont un enfant handicapé à recevoir l'allocation mensuelle à laquelle elles ont droit. Le comité a reçu plusieurs plaintes touchant l'administration de ces allocations dans certains bureaux locaux, ce qui l'a incité à discuter de cette question avec des représentants du ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires.

Les familles ne sont admissibles à ces allocations que si leur revenu brut ne dépasse pas 26 000 \$. Dans les grands centres où des services sont accessibles, l'aide financière accordée est moindre que dans la région nord et les régions éloignées. Il semble cependant que les directives touchant cette allocation ne sont pas toujours interprétées et appliquées uniformément dans toute la province.

En octobre 1983, le Conseil a recommandé à l'unanimité que soit immédiatement entreprise une révision des prestations pour enfants handicapés, portant notamment sur toutes les conditions d'admissibilité, y compris le revenu brut de la famille. Il a également demandé d'être informé de cette révision avant la mise en oeuvre de ses conclusions. En décembre 1983, le Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales a fait savoir au Conseil que cette recommandation sur les prestations pour enfants handicapés serait portée à l'attention du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires.

## Soins orthodontiques

Lors de l'assemblée générale du Conseil en mars 1984, le comité a fait part de ses préoccupations touchant les soins orthodontiques dont ont besoin les enfants qui souffrent d'une fissure congénitale du palais osseux. À l'heure actuelle, les coûts que nécessitent ces soins ne sont reconnus ni par le régime d'assurance-maladie de l'Ontario (OHIP), ni par le Programme d'appareils et de prothèses.

# Comité d'étude sur les besoins particuliers des enfants atteints d'un handicap physique

logement, destiné à élargir l'éventail des programmes existants en cette matière à l'intention des déficients mentaux. Le ministre a expliqué que ce nouveau programme présenterait plus de souplesse que ce qui est prévu dans la Loi sur les foyers pour déficients mentaux, les services pouvant être offerts aux bénéficiaires dans le cadre de leur choix plutôt que dans des logements désignés.

Dans son énoncé de principe sur les soins individuels dispensés par un préposé, le Conseil recommandait un programme analogue à l'intention des handicapés physiques, qui leur permettrait de choisir eux aussi le cadre dans lequel les services leur sont dispensés.

Des précisions sur ce programme ont été demandées au ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, notamment sur l'application de ce programme aux handicapés physiques.

Dr William Orr, président  
William Watson  
Alex Kehoe  
Barry Easton  
Audrey King, conseillère

Délégué auprès du comité:

Ross Byron  
Windsor

Invités du comité:

Charlene Muller  
Institut national canadien pour les aveugles  
David Neil  
W. Ross MacDonald School, Brantford  
Dr W. Lotto  
Société des timbres de Pâques  
Frank Sebo  
Ministère de l'Éducation  
Berry Ezrin  
Ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires  
John Stapleton  
Ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires  
Kathleen Jordan  
Toronto  
Maurice Marchand  
Ministère de l'Éducation

Le comité a dû conclure que cette question était très complexe et nécessitait des recherches approfondies, que le Conseil ne pouvait se permettre de faire. Pour cette raison, l'élaboration de cet énoncé de principe sur le rôle de la famille a été interrompue.

Lors de l'assemblée générale du Conseil en mars 1984, le comité a rappelé l'importance de cette étude, et le Conseil a adopté la recommandation suivante: "Le Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques recommande que, dans ses travaux ultérieurs, soit réitérée l'importance du rôle que joue la famille en subvenant aux besoins d'un adulte ou d'un enfant handicapé, et que le Secrétariat des personnes handicapées envisage la possibilité d'effectuer une étude sur les problèmes quotidiens d'une personne handicapée au sein de sa famille et les incidences psychosociales sur sa famille, et les moyens que peuvent mettre en oeuvre la société et le gouvernement pour les aider."

Le Conseil est d'avis que la famille est toujours celle qui subvient le plus aux besoins de ces personnes dans notre reconnu. Trop souvent, les familles ne disposent pas de l'aide extérieure nécessaire pour garder à la maison une personne handicapée plutôt que de la confier à un établissement spécialisé.

Le Conseil est disposé à collaborer à cette étude en fournissant le cadre de travail.

## Autres préoccupations

Hygiène personnelle — Le comité a organisé une rencontre pour discuter d'un problème qui lui avait été soumis par un groupe de citoyens touchant les soins d'hygiène personnelle dans les établissements de réadaptation de l'Ontario, notamment ceux qui dispensent des services aux personnes atteintes de handicaps graves.

Le comité a constaté qu'il n'y a que quelques hommes dans ces établissements pour aider les personnes handicapées de sexe masculin en matière d'hygiène personnelle. Il a suggéré qu'une étude soit effectuée sur la proportion des hommes et des femmes qui sont affectés à ces soins dans les établissements de réadaptation. Par la suite, cette question n'a plus été portée à l'attention du comité.

Soutien à la vie autonome dans un logement — En juin 1983, le ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, l'honorable Frank Drea, qui s'adressait à l'association de la communauté urbaine de Toronto pour les déficients mentaux, a présenté un nouveau programme de soutien à la vie autonome en



Comité des services de logement et  
de soutien

Jim Gerrond, président

Nancy Skinner

Beverly Gray

Marian Webb

Audrey King, conseillère

Déléguée auprès du comité :

Jackie Rodger

Invités du comité :

Don Dal Bianco

Ontario Rest Homes Association

Judy Bishop

Ontario Rest Homes Association

Jean McCartney

Ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires

Rick Hedges

Ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires

Heather Boon

Ministère de la Santé

Appareils et prothèses

Le comité des services de logement et de soutien est chargé de l'application du Programme d'appareils et de prothèses, qui est entré en vigueur en juillet 1982.

Le Conseil a délégué un représentant pour siéger au Comité consultatif sur les appareils et prothèses, du ministère de la Santé, institué en 1982 pour évaluer ce programme. Le Conseil est toujours d'avis que ce programme devrait s'appliquer à tous les handicapés physiques et comprendre aussi les frais de réparation.

Soins individuels dispensés par un préposé

Il y a déjà quelques années que le Conseil se préoccupe de la question des soins dispensés par un préposé. Le comité avait déjà élaboré un énoncé de principe décrivant les activités essentielles courantes de la vie quotidienne qui permettent aux handicapés de vivre normalement dans la société.

Au printemps 1983, le Conseil a remis ce document au gouvernement de l'Ontario, qui lui a fait connaître sa position dans une lettre du Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales, reçue le 28 juin 1983. Le comité a reconnu que le gouvernement accueillait favorablement certaines parties du document, en acceptant notamment le principe d'une allocation pour

Le rôle de la famille

Au cours de l'été 1983, le comité a eu recours à un étudiant, dans le cadre du programme Expérience 83, pour étudier les incidences de la présence dans une famille d'une personne handicapée et le rôle que joue le gouvernement de l'Ontario pour aider ces familles. À partir de cette étude, le comité entendait élaborer un énoncé de principe sur le rôle de la famille. Des données ont été recueillies auprès d'un certain nombre de familles et de quelques organismes, par le biais de rencontres personnelles et de lettres. Elles portent généralement sur les problèmes de la vie quotidienne tels que le logement, la formation, les services d'appui et les appareils et prothèses. Elles n'ont cependant pas permis d'étudier les incidences psychosociales de la présence au sein d'une famille de personnes handicapées.

En décembre 1983, le Conseil a rencontré des représentants des ministères en cause pour discuter de cette question. Il ne semble pas que cette rencontre ait permis au Conseil de faire accueillir favorablement ses recommandations touchant les allocations pour soins individuels. Le Conseil est toujours d'avis que les arrêtés ministériels ne constituent pas un moyen approprié à cette fin, et qu'il faut élaborer un mécanisme permettant de répondre aux besoins des personnes handicapées qui ont besoin de soins individuels dispensés par un préposé.

soins individuels dispensés par un préposé. Quant aux coûts estimatifs prévus par le gouvernement pour ces allocations, le comité ajoutait qu'il suit: "Si le gouvernement a déjà jugé que ces coûts sont prohibitifs, c'est qu'il doit avoir fait évaluer les besoins en cette matière, et il importe d'étudier divers modes de financement possibles. Il doit aussi avoir fait faire une comparaison des coûts des divers systèmes de prestation de soins individuels, pour conclure que ce genre de programme nécessiterait des fonds plus importants que ceux qui servent déjà à assurer un service de cette nature, plutôt que de songer à réaffecter autrement ces fonds."

Le Conseil ajoutait que cette allocation constituait une option possible parmi les programmes existants et un moyen de répondre aux besoins que les programmes officiels ne peuvent combler. Compte tenu de la complexité des facteurs qui rendent nécessaires ces soins individuels, il est douteux que l'éventail le plus diversifié possible de services parvienne jamais à combler toutes les lacunes ou à éviter les chevauchements. Dans son énoncé de principe, le Conseil ne préconise pas l'adoption de ce programme en exclusivité.



faire comme celui qui contourne la montagne qu'il ne peut escalader. Nous devons travailler en collaboration avec tous ceux qui ne sont pas handicapés dans le monde, et comprendre que ce n'est pas de leur faute si nous souffrons d'un handicap physique. En raison de nos responsabilités envers les handicapés physiques, nous nous devons de trouver des façons d'éliminer les obstacles, par la collaboration avec les autres, plutôt que d'exiger simplement que ces obstacles soient éliminés.

Je souhaite vivement que le Conseil presse toujours plus instamment le gouvernement d'apporter les améliorations nécessaires aux lois pour le plus grand bien des handicapés physiques, et maintienne des liens toujours plus étroits avec le Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales.

S'il est une chose que j'ai apprise au cours de mes années à la présidence du Conseil, c'est que nous, qui sommes des personnes physiquement handicapées, n'avons pas véritablement d'ennemi. Nous devons simplement lutter contre l'apathie et le manque de sensibilisation à nos besoins.

Je tiens à adresser mes remerciements les plus sincères à chacune des personnes, à chacun des organismes et à chacun des membres du Conseil et de son personnel, qui ont travaillé avec moi pendant toutes ces années que j'ai passées au Conseil. Je ne nommerai personne, de peur d'oublier quelqu'un, et pour éviter de doubler le nombre de pages de ce rapport annuel. Mais chacun connaît bien la contribution personnelle qu'il a apportée au succès du Conseil, et je l'en remercie sincèrement.

Le président,



Jack W. Longman

• L'accès aux édifices publics est maintenant devenu une réalité dans bien des régions. Les améliorations qui ont été apportées au Code du bâtiment de l'Ontario permettent de répondre plus efficacement aux besoins des handicapés physiques.

• Divers programmes d'emploi ont été mis sur pied dans plusieurs ministères, et nous pouvons constater pour la première fois une certaine amélioration des possibilités d'emploi offertes aux handicapés physiques.

• L'adoption de la loi 82 a permis de garantir des possibilités égales d'apprentissage et de formation aux enfants handicapés.

En résumé, nous ne sommes plus considérés en Ontario comme des "impotents", mais comme des personnes titulaires de droits égaux et jouissant d'une certaine protection, en vertu du nouveau Code ontarien des droits de la personne.

Comme je quitte la présidence du Conseil, j'aimerais profiter de cette occasion pour vous livrer quelques observations personnelles. Il est difficile pour un président sortant de résister à la tentation de jouer au prophète ou, pour employer un vocabulaire plus moderne, à l'expert-conseil. Dans ce rôle, on peut se permettre de dire bien des choses sans risquer de devoir réaliser ses prophéties.

Je pense que les principales questions touchant les personnes physiquement handicapées ont été clairement définies et que nous devons maintenant concentrer notre attention sur chacun des besoins auxquels il faut répondre un par un. Nous ne pouvons plus, nous, les personnes physiquement handicapées, laisser les autres trouver des solutions. Nous devons comprendre que nous devons assumer nous-mêmes un grand nombre de responsabilités. Il nous faut reconnaître que la vie ne sera jamais parfaite, que nous soyons physiquement handicapés ou non. Plutôt que de nous frapper la tête contre les murs, nous devons

C'est le dernier rapport que j'ai l'honneur de signer en ma qualité de président du Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques. Après avoir jeté un coup d'oeil sur les activités de l'année 1983-1984, je voudrais résumer brièvement les travaux du Conseil depuis sa constitution en 1975, avant de vous livrer quelques-unes de mes réflexions concernant l'avenir.

L'année écoulée a été fertile en activités, comme vous le constaterez en lisant les rapports des divers comités du Conseil. Nous avons adressé un grand nombre de questions au gouvernement et lui avons soumis plusieurs recommandations, qui en sont aujourd'hui au stade de l'étude ou de la mise en oeuvre.

En 1983, Madame Margaret Birch a quitté le Secrétariat de la province aux Affaires sociales. C'est à elle que nous devons la création du Conseil en 1975, et elle a toujours collaboré très étroitement avec les divers présidents de l'organisme. Nous regretterons son absence, mais je suis sûr qu'elle continuera de s'intéresser au bien-être des handicapés physiques de l'Ontario.

Nous avons travaillé pendant quelques mois avec M. Bruce McCaffrey, qui l'a remplacée, et nous relevons maintenant de l'honorable Gordon Dean, qui dirige actuellement le Secrétariat de la province aux Affaires sociales. Les quelques rencontres que j'ai eues avec M. Dean m'ont permis de constater qu'il porte le même intérêt au travail du Conseil.

En 1983, plutôt que d'organiser des débats publics dans les diverses régions de la province, nous avons tenu une rencontre de consultation de deux jours avec les principaux groupes et organismes provinciaux qui s'intéressent aux handicapés physiques. Vingt et un des vingt-six groupes invités sont venus présenter des mémoires et participer aux échanges d'idées. Cette rencontre de deux jours, qui visait à élaborer des plans pour mieux répondre aux besoins actuels et futurs des handicapés physiques de l'Ontario, s'est révélée très encourageante et les échanges d'idées ont été utiles à tous. Elle a également permis de soulever une question importante. Est-il vraiment nécessaire d'avoir vingt-six organismes pour répondre aux besoins des personnes qui souffrent d'un handicap physique, quelle qu'en soit la cause? Ne serions-nous pas plus efficaces si nous parlions tous d'une même voix?

Pour la première fois de son histoire, le Conseil a perdu un membre qui est décédé au cours de son mandat. Il s'agit de Lord Athol Layton, qui ne ménageait jamais le temps qu'il consacrait généreusement à la cause des handicapés physiques. Tous ceux qui le connaissaient l'aimaient bien, et les membres du Conseil ont perdu en lui un ami véritable.

J'aimerais maintenant évoquer certaines des préoccupations et réalisations passées du Conseil, auquel je participe depuis neuf ans et dont j'assume la présidence depuis cinq ans. Les retours en arrière s'accompagnent souvent de nostalgie. Mais loin d'évoquer ici les bonnes choses du passé, je veux plutôt rappeler les améliorations qui ont été apportées depuis dix ans à la situation des handicapés physiques de l'Ontario, qui sont d'avantage intégrés aujourd'hui à la société grâce à la sensibilisation et à l'appui du public. On peut comparer cette évolution aux progrès technologiques que le monde a connus en quelques décennies seulement, et qui ont dissipé bien des mythes. Aujourd'hui, l'homme peut non seulement voler, mais aller sur la lune et voyager dans l'espace. Il peut non seulement converser avec les gens d'un bout à l'autre de la planète, mais aussi assister à ce qui se passe partout dans le monde. Grâce à ces progrès technologiques, les personnes handicapées peuvent de plus en plus participer à la vie de la société de façon toujours plus autonome.

Il y avait aussi des mythes qui entouraient les personnes handicapées, et ils sont également disparus en très peu de temps. J'éprouve une grande fierté d'avoir pu participer, personnellement et par le biais du Conseil, à cette évolution. Depuis sa constitution, le Conseil a présenté un grand nombre de recommandations et a constaté bien des améliorations. En voici quelques-unes:

- Il existe maintenant un service parallèle de transport à l'intention des personnes handicapées, et une cinquantaine de collectivités de toute la province participent à ce programme.
- Quelques projets de vie autonome en appartement ont été élaborés. Ce sont là des débuts très prometteurs. Mais comme les besoins en ce domaine sont très vastes, il faudra faire beaucoup plus, surtout à l'intention des jeunes handicapés physiques qui séjournent encore dans les établissements de soins de longue durée.
- Le Programme d'appareils et de prothèses existe depuis deux ans et permet de répondre aux besoins spécifiques des jeunes de moins de 19 ans. Le Conseil a fait savoir que ce programme doit être offert à tous les handicapés physiques de l'Ontario, quel que soit leur âge.
- Certaines améliorations ont été apportées au système actuel de maintien du revenu des personnes handicapées.

- physiques et faire des recommandations appropriées, à la lumière des connaissances et de l'expérience des membres du Conseil;
- (b) encourager les citoyens de l'Ontario à exprimer leur point de vue sur toute question relative aux handicapés physiques;
- (c) promouvoir auprès de ces derniers toutes les occasions de participer à des programmes familiaux et communautaires d'entraide;
- (d) examiner les politiques et programmes concernant les personnes atteintes d'un handicap physique;
- (e) informer régulièrement le Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales de l'évolution des activités du Conseil;
- (f) présenter au Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales un rapport annuel des activités et réalisations du Conseil.

Le Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques a été constitué le 5 février 1975 par un décret du conseil des ministres approuvé par le lieutenant-gouverneur de l'Ontario. Outre son président et ses deux vice-présidents, il comprend 18 membres venant de plusieurs régions de la province. Plus de la moitié des membres sont atteints d'un handicap physique et tous ont acquis une certaine expérience auprès des organismes qui s'occupent des personnes handicapées.

Voici le mandat du Conseil:

1. De façon générale, conseiller le Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales sur toute question relative aux handicapés physiques de l'Ontario.
2. De façon plus particulière, mais sans exclure d'autres tâches:
- (a) identifier et étudier les problèmes des handicapés

Membres du Conseil

- \* Jack W. Longman, président
- \* Audrey King, vice-présidente
- \* Joseph West, vice-président
- \* Margaret Anderson
- \* Fernand Dame
- \* Barry Easton
- \* Jim Gerrond
- \* Karen Glen-Freeland
- \* Beverly Gray
- \* Roy Herbert

- Windsor
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- Alex Kehoe
- Athol Layton (décédé)
- Ronald W. McInnes
- \* William Murdock
- \* Dr William Orr
- Beryl Potter
- Nancy Skinner
- Dr J. H. Somerville
- William Watson
- Marian Webb

- Toronto
- Chatham
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- Toronto
- Toronto
- London
- St. Catharines
- Toronto
- London
- Toronto
- Sharon
- Kingston

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Elizabeth Szalowski, administratrice principale  
Leila B. Tikaram, adjointe administrative



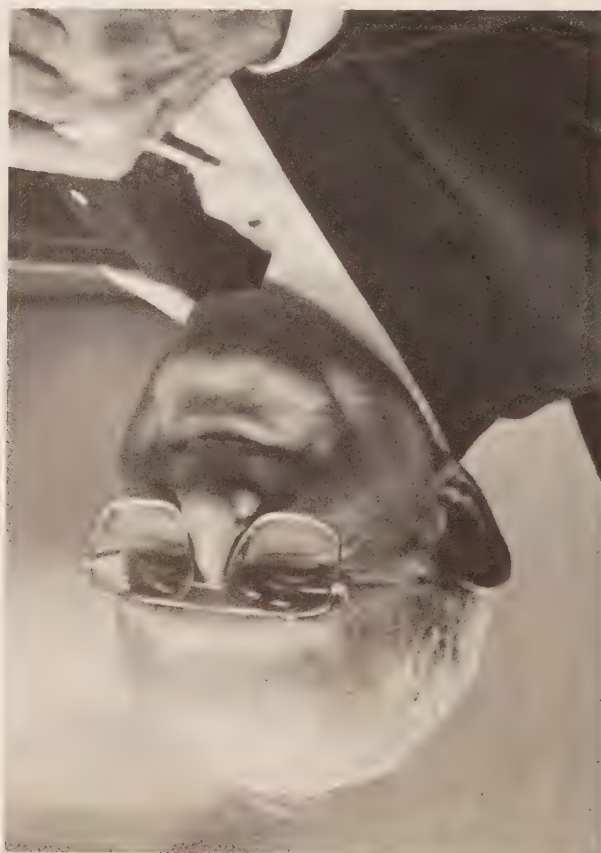
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Audrey J. King  
Vice-présidente



Jack W. Longman  
Président



Joseph West  
Vice-président







L'honorable Gordon Dean  
Secrétaire de la province  
aux Affaires sociales

Monsieur,

J'ai l'honneur de vous présenter le neuvième  
rapport annuel du Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario  
sur les handicapés physiques pour la période de  
douze mois terminée le 31 mars 1984.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma très  
haute considération.

Le président,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. W. Longman'.

Jack W. Longman

**Neuvième rapport annuel du  
Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario  
sur les handicapés physiques  
pour la période de douze mois  
terminée le 31 mars 1984**

**Conseil consultatif  
sur les handicapés physiques**



Ontario

Groupe-conseil auprès du Secrétaire  
de la province aux Affaires sociales





Conseil consultatif  
de l'Ontario  
sur les handicapés physiques



Neuvième rapport annuel



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# Tenth Annual Report

## The Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped



INTERNATIONAL  
YOUTH YEAR 1985



ANNÉE INTERNATIONALE  
DE LA JEUNESSE 1985





## **A Decade of Service**

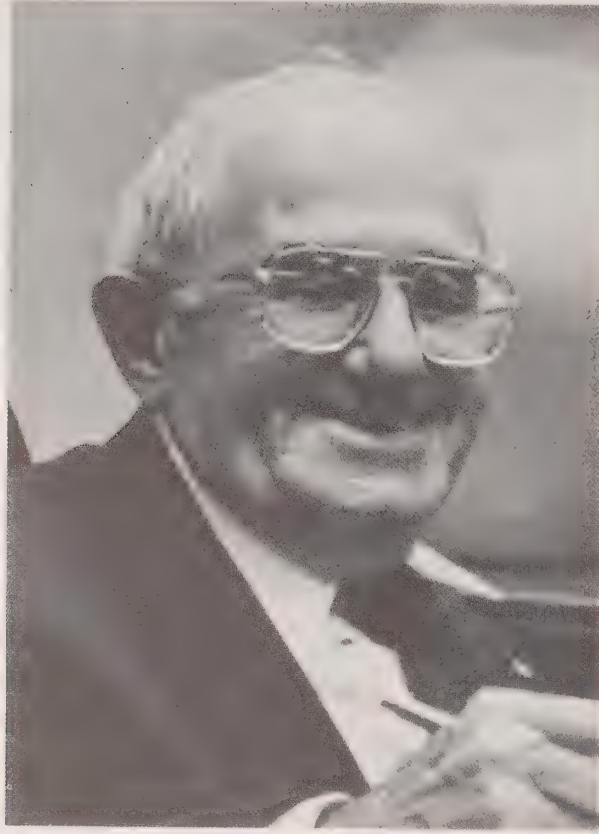
### **Tenth Annual Report of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped for the twelve month period ending March 31, 1985**



Advisory Council  
on the Physically Handicapped  
Ontario

**Cover:** Passing of the Baton at the  
IYY Canada Day Relay,  
Queen's Park, Toronto, 1985

## IN MEMORIAM



JACK LONGMAN  
May 18, 1922 — May 28, 1985

CHAIRMAN  
Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically  
Handicapped  
1978-1984

Jack Longman, born with Osteogenesis Imperfecta, never grew to be a tall man. He did, however, achieve great stature in overcoming his disability, becoming a successful Windsor businessman and a champion of the less fortunate. He was a driving force behind the founding of the ALPHA home (Apartments for Living for Physically Handicapped). He was educated at home by family and the home visit program of the Windsor Board of Education. His greatest mentor, however, was life, and it was in appreciation of the human experience that he developed a great inner wisdom. During his tenure as Chairman of the Ontario

Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped, the Council solidified its position as a responsible advisor to government on the needs and concerns of the Ontario community of disabled persons. Jack Longman was an adherent of Westminster United Church, Windsor, a member of the Rotary Club and a member of the Provincial Committee on Assistive Devices. In October, 1981, an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree was conferred on him by the University of Windsor. Jack leaves his widow, the former Joyce Butcher, whom he married in 1958.

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## Chairman's Remarks

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It has been an exciting challenge to assume the position of Chairman of the Advisory Council as it reached the end of its first decade. During those years, Council has operated under the able direction of Edward A. Dunlop, Andrew C. Clarke and the late Jack Longman and the credit for past achievements must go to them and the members who served with them. Much, however, remains to be done and the need for this Council and its work will continue for many years.

This was intended as a year primarily of reorganization, education and review of priorities for the Council. Awareness of the barriers, both physical and psychological, facing the disabled and support for improvements from both Government and the public has increased dramatically during the life of the Council. The goal now is to improve information flow and communication to enable Council to better advise government on outstanding individual issues. The profile of Council must be raised with both the public, particularly the disabled, and with government to permit important concerns to be effectively addressed and recommendations directed to appropriate areas within government. Council must become better informed of pending government initiatives to permit constructive suggestions prior to implementation of policies or programs.

It was for this purpose that we held an intensive two-day series of Consultation Meetings during 1984 with a wide variety of representatives of various government ministries having responsibility for issues of concern to persons with disabilities in Ontario. While not an unqualified success in all respects, much was learned from these encounters which will be of value in future and we are hopeful that the government representatives returned from these meetings with an increased awareness of Council and its mandate. Early in 1985, Council embarked on another experimental initiative with an informal Community Consultation session in Barrie. Twenty-two representatives of 17 local organizations and agencies accepted Council's invitation to discuss local concerns with several members of Council. This event provided us with some new viewpoints and confirmation of the relevance of a number of issues which we were already considering. Such meetings may provide an alternative to the larger and more formal Public Forums which have been held in past years but which must necessarily be limited in number because of the ever present considerations of time and funding.

This past year our complement of members was reduced from 21 to 16, of whom fully half had no previous experience on Council. While those members who retired at the end of the 1984/85 year were greatly missed, the new members contributed admirably and a number of well-reasoned recommendations and pertinent comments on

government policies and programs were produced and presented to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development, the Honourable Gordon Dean. These accomplishments exceeded my expectations and are a credit to the dedication and energy of the members.

The smaller size of Council dictated a new organizational structure. Task Groups were formed to deal with issues related to Support Services and Accommodation, Employment and Rehabilitation and Access and Transportation. It was unfortunate that issues respecting the Needs of Physically Handicapped Children, long an important area of Council concern, could only be dealt with on an ad hoc basis this year.

As Council members are appointed from all parts of the Province, Task Groups and Council meetings are held on consecutive days in Toronto. During the past year, there were 7 such meetings. Between meetings, members reviewed relevant data, ably collected by Council staff, and prepared intensively on their own time to make the most of the short period they could spend together. Often there were present at Task Group meetings, by invitation, representatives of government ministries or agencies to explain a policy or program or answer the questions of members. Persons from the private sector may also be invited, from time to time, to Group meetings to share their views, concerns or expertise.


The Task Groups report to the full Council and it is in these meetings that recommendations are brought forward and discussed, bringing to bear the total experience and expertise of all members. If adopted, a recommendation is then forwarded by the Chairman to the Provincial Secretary for action or response by the Provincial Secretary or one of his ministerial colleagues. The progress of such recommendations is monitored by Council to ensure that a response is received and, hopefully, the proposed action taken.

All Members of Council experience the frustrations of being a purely advisory body but also, I hope, recognize the unique opportunity that the Council has in its close, but independent, relationship with government. This co-operative approach of consultation must, however, be reciprocal if both government and the physically handicapped citizens of Ontario are to benefit from the existence of Council.

Our reorganization during the past year extended to the staff of Council as well. The retirement of our Senior Executive Officer for the past four years and the transfer of our Administrative Assistant temporarily deprived us of much valuable experience but I am pleased to report that their successors are proving both able and efficient. A further change near the end of the year, in co-operation with the Ontario Advisory Council on Senior Citizens, has provided us with the shared services of a Research Assistant for the first time in our history. This is a facility which we have needed

for some time and I have great expectations for Council's increased capacity to deal more deeply and efficiently with issues with this additional support.

Finally, I would like to extend my special thanks to my capable Vice-Chairpersons, Beryl Potter and Joe West.



Ronald W. McInnes  
Chairman

## The Role of Council in 1984/85

---

The Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped was established on February 5, 1975 by an Order-in-Council approved by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

In 1975 Council consisted of a Chairman and nineteen Members, drawn from communities across Ontario. In 1984/85 sixteen individuals were appointed to Council, including a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, with a mandate:

"To advise the Government of Ontario through the Provincial Secretary for Social Development on matters pertaining to the well-being of physically handicapped persons, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing:

- (a) to further promote the development and creation of opportunity for self-help for the physically handicapped, to their satisfaction and advantage as members of society as a whole;
- (b) to review current policies which have a bearing on handicaps, involving education, employment, rehabilitation, income maintenance, health measures, services and facilities of government and otherwise, including programs on housing; transportation, recreation, guardianship and other related services."

Council's role, therefore, is to provide the Ontario Government with thoughtful advice, based on the experience and knowledge Members bring to Council as individuals concerned with issues faced by persons in our society who are disabled. To do this, Council must be sensitive to the current issues and needs of individuals or groups representing those with physical disabilities.

Council is not a funding body, does not undertake case management, and is not involved in the delivery of programs. The provision of funding, research, and program delivery remain the responsibility of the Government, to which Council offers its advice.

Council is grateful to those individuals and organizations representing persons with disabilities and the community in general for identifying specific issues and offering alternative solutions.

We also acknowledge the support provided and program information shared by staff in professional organizations and the Ministries within the Governments of Ontario and Canada.

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700 Bay Street, 2nd floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5G 1Z6  
Phone: (416) 965-9537

Council Staff  
Mary Tate, Executive Officer  
Christopher Stewart, Research Assistant



## Membership of Council 1984/85

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**Ronald W. McInnes, Willowdale** (Chairman)

Chairman of Council and a lawyer by profession, Ron McInnes is a board member and Past-President of the Clarendon Foundation (Cheshire Homes) Inc. He was formerly a board member of the Canadian Paraplegic Association and Lyndhurst Hospital.

**Beryl Potter, Scarborough** (Vice-Chairman)

Beryl Potter has been President of the Scarborough Recreation Club since founding the Club in 1976, Chairperson of the Scarborough Action Committee and Member of the Advisory Board for the Federal Norm Kelly Community Development Fund. Beryl Potter is also a Member of the Social Planning Council and Wheel-Trans Advisory Committee.



**Joseph West, St. Catharines,** (Vice-Chairman)

Joe West is a retired advertising and public relations manager. He was a founding member and first President of the St. Catharines Symphony, former Campaign Chairman and Past President of the St. Catharines United Appeal, member of the Chamber of Commerce and former Director of Junior Achievement.







**Fernand Dame, Kapuskasing**

Fernand Dame has been actively involved in union, church and local municipal councils in his home town. He is a Friend of the La Forge, an organization involved in assisting senior citizens and the disabled, a member of the Knights of Columbus and affiliated member of the Royal Canadian Legion.

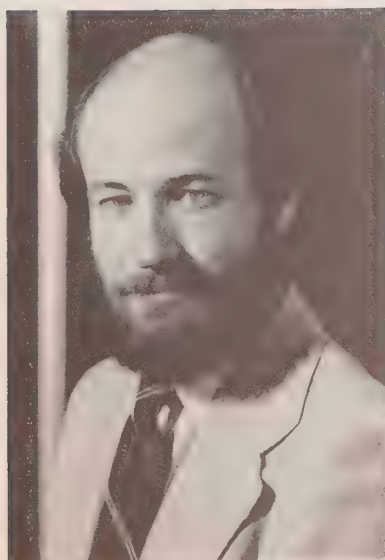
**Mary Louise Dickson, Q.C., Toronto**

Mary Louise Dickson, Q.C., a lawyer, who has written on planning for the disabled and charities, held the position of Chairperson of the Wills and Trusts section of the Ontario branch of the Canadian Bar Association, and is a Director of Camp Awakening Inc., a camp program for disabled youth.



**Rev. K. R. Gallinger, Parry Sound**

Ken Gallinger, Minister of St. James Centennial United Church, is a Trustee of the Parry Sound District General Hospital and Past Chairman of the Friends of the Physically Handicapped (Muskoka-Parry Sound). He is currently a member of the Building Committee for Parry Sound Residence and Resource Centre for the Physically Disabled and a member of the Committee for Gifted Children — Parry Sound Board of Education.





**Karen Glen-Freeland, Hamilton**

Karen Glen-Freeland, Hamilton, is an administrator of health care services in Hamilton/Wentworth and teaches Palliative Care at Mohawk College. Founder of the Lupus Foundation in Ontario, Karen Glen-Freeland is a member of the Hamilton/Wentworth Regional Advisory Committee on the Physically Handicapped and the Chamber of Commerce Education/Industry Committee.

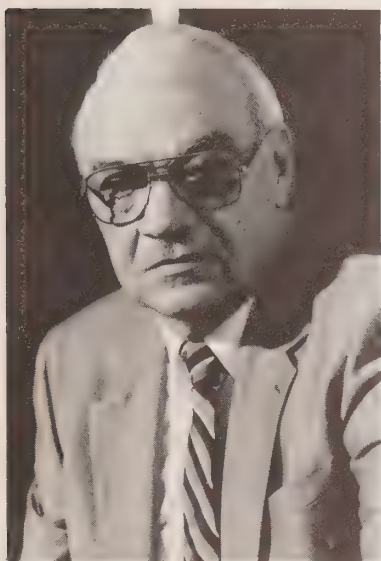
**Nancy Ellen Hansen, Ottawa**

Nancy Ellen Hansen has authored a number of reports on accessibility: *"Access to National Library Facilities"* and *"Services for One Disabled at Terrasses de la Chaudiere"*. She has also co-authored the following works: *"Accessibility of Post-Secondary Institutions in the Ottawa Area and Across Canada"*.



**Roy Herbert, Barrie**

Roy Herbert, a realtor and insurance agent, initiated the formation of and coaches both a baseball and hockey team. The proceeds of the tournaments, attended all over North America by these teams, go entirely to charitable organizations. He is a committee member of the Lions Legion and the Friends of the Physically Handicapped.



### **Alex Kehoe, Chatham**

An insurance adjuster, Alex Kehoe served on the Board of Directors for the Kent County Children's Treatment Centre and was President of the Centre for four years. He is a member of the Chatham Rotary Club and has been Chairman of the Crippled Children's Committee for the Club for the past 19 years.

### **A. Jean Moore, Kingston**

The immediate Past President of United Handicapped Groups of Ontario and Ontario's representative to the Co-ordinating Committee of C.O.P.O.H. — D.P.I., Jean Moore is actively involved nationally, provincially and locally with C.O.P.O.H. and P.U.S.H. In May 1984 she received the Lifestyle Award for her contribution to and involvement with the disabled community.



### **Margaret Munnoch, Woodstock**

Margaret Munnoch is a registered nurse and past Vice-President of the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Woodstock. She has served as a Chairperson of the Woodstock Parks and Recreation Commission and the Woodstock Planning Board. She is also presently a member of the Family and Children's Services Association.





### **Kirby Rowe, Toronto**

Executive Director of the Ontario division of the Canadian Paraplegic Association in Toronto, Kirby Rowe is a member of the Lyndhurst Hospital Board of Governors. He has served on the Mobility Services Sub-Committee of the Assistive Devices Program Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Health, is a member of the Development Committee of Cheshire Homes Development Centre, and an advisor to Nucleus Housing Inc.

### **Ruth Selby, Hamilton**

A member of the Regional Advisory Committee for the Disabled, the Burlington Committee for the Disabled, and the committee organizing the Ontario Games for the Handicapped, Ruth Selby received The Handicapped Woman of the Year Award from the Hamilton Branch of Pilot Clubs International.



### **Leonard Stortini, Sault Ste. Marie**

For many years, Len Stortini, a businessman, has been actively involved in issues concerning individuals with disabilities as the Chairman of the Crippled Children's Committee of the Sault Ste. Marie Rotary Club. He is also a member of various organizations in his community not related to the disabled.



### **Nancy Skinner, London (resigned)**

A Personal Care Co-ordinator with the March of Dimes, Nancy Skinner helped establish and became Chairman of the Board of the two Cheshire Homes in London, Ontario.

## Employment and Rehabilitation

Chairperson: Karen Glen-Freeland  
Members: Fernand Dame  
Margaret Munnoch  
Beryl Potter

### Bill 101 — Workers' Compensation

Following the submission of its report in December, 1983 to the Minister of Labour on the "White Paper" or Weiler Report, The Employment & Rehabilitation Task Group continued to monitor the progress of the proposed legislation. In June 1984 a further meeting was held with Ministry representatives and Council made its comments known to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Resources Development.

An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, Bill 101 received final reading in December 1984 and the Task Group has continued to meet with senior staff in the Ministry of Labour to monitor the adjustments required to the organization and administration of the Workers' Compensation Board in connection with the implementation of the Act.

Effective April 1, 1985 the major changes under Bill 101 may be summarized as follows:

- an increase in the covered earnings ceiling of pre-accident earnings to \$31,500 from \$26,800;
- improved rehabilitation supplement provisions for partially disabled workers. In addition, the receipt of the Canada Pension Plan disability pension will be taken into account in determining the amount of supplements. Supplements are designed to bring the incomes of disabled workers up to total disability pension levels while the workers are in rehabilitation programs.
- older injured workers who are unlikely to benefit from vocational rehabilitation will be eligible for Workers' Compensation Board rehabilitation supplements equal to the level of the Old Age Security Pensions;
- benefits will be based on 90 per cent of the injured worker's pre-accident net earnings rather than the present 75 per cent of gross earnings;
- a new and enhanced formula for determining entitlement of surviving spouses and dependents;

- the inclusion of domestic workers under the Workers' Compensation Act.

In the administrative and procedural areas, major changes taking effect July 1, 1985 are:

- an expanded Workers' Compensation Corporate Board;
- establishment of an independent, tripartite appeals tribunal, with provision for independent medical assessors to assist the tribunal in its deliberations;
- establishment of an Industrial Disease Standards Panel to provide expert advice on the criteria for compensating workers who contract industrial diseases;
- expansion of the office of workers' advisors and the creation of a new employers' advisors office. Both offices will be independent of the Workers' Compensation Board.

#### STATUS:

##### BILL 101

**Council will continue to monitor the implementation of the amended Workers' Compensation Act by the Workers' Compensation Board.**

### Universal Disability Insurance

In March 1984 Council recommended that the Government of Ontario establish a Working Committee to create a model of Universal Disability Insurance.

In October, 1984, on the advice of the Provincial Secretary for Social Development, Council met with representatives of the Ministry of Community & Social Services to discuss the issue further. It is Council's understanding that Federal/Provincial meetings are underway and Council's viewpoint will be considered.

#### STATUS:

##### UNIVERSAL DISABILITY INSURANCE

**Federal/Provincial discussions are underway. Council will continue to monitor progress through the Ministry of Community & Social Services.**



## **Equality in Employment: A Royal Commission Report**

Prepared by Judge Rosalie Abella

## **Linking for Employment**

Prepared by Jean Pigott

Council undertook a thorough review of both these important reports. Council believes that government should legislate compliance, but, as recommended in the Abella Report, without establishing quotas. However Council remains concerned about the manner in which necessary statistical data will be collected and the means of enforcement used. Council endorsed the overall philosophy of the Pigott Report and recognized the value of the proposed Community Resource Council but did not feel the report went far enough. In January 1984 Council made a recommendation to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development that the Government of Ontario establish a Provincial Task Force to review together both the Pigott and Abella Reports, with a view to considering the legislation of equity employment practices in Ontario.

### **STATUS:**

#### **EMPLOYMENT EQUITY**

**Council has recommended the establishment of a Provincial Task Force to consider legislation of equity employment in Ontario. No response has been received.**

## **Access and Transportation**

Chairperson: Mary Louise Dickson  
Members: Reverend K. Gallinger  
Nancy Hansen  
Alex Kehoe  
Leonard Stortini  
Joe West

### **Architectural Awards Program:**

Council is very pleased with the announcement by the Government of Ontario in February, 1985 of the Premier's Awards for Accessibility — 1985. With the support and assistance of the Ontario Association of Architects and the Barrier-Free Design Centre of Toronto, Council had recommended the establishment of an Architectural Awards Program for Barrier-Free Design in 1983. Through representation on the Steering Committee, Council worked with the

Secretariat for Disabled Persons to define the criteria for the program.

The awards are intended to encourage Ontario architects to incorporate barrier-free features into buildings at the preliminary design stage; to focus public attention on our society's need for buildings that are barrier-free and to influence public attitudes toward the provision of such buildings; and to increase the number of buildings and environments that can be used by disabled persons.

### **STATUS:**

#### **BARRIER-FREE DESIGN**

**Council's recommendation of 1983 has been implemented. The Premier's Awards for Accessibility — 1985 were announced in February, 1985.**

## **Accessibility**

During 1984/85 Council met with senior staff in the Ministries of Education, and Colleges & Universities with a view to ensuring the inclusion of Barrier-Free Design in the curriculum of Architectural Technologists on a province wide basis. The Ministry supported the proposal and will take it forward to the appropriate University and College authorities.

Discussions were also held with the Ministry of Education regarding the language and style of presentation of printed teaching aid materials to be used in Ontario schools. These publications are designed to assist teachers working with disabled young people. Council was pleased to contribute to the revision of such materials and will continue to advise the Ministry in this respect.

Council was also pleased to respond to a request from the Metropolitan Separate School Board with a submission on facilities for individuals with disabilities. As indicated in that submission, it is important that general awareness for making buildings accessible in Ontario be fostered, and amendments to the Ontario Building Code with respect to accessibility are needed.

Council has been monitoring and making submissions for changes in the Ontario Building Code since 1978. Many of the recommendations have been implemented. However, Council remains firm in its position that all new buildings and major renovations should be constructed in such a manner to offer equal treatment, including access, to persons with disabilities, as are provided to and are available for other users of the facility in



accordance with Section 1 of the Ontario Human Rights Code. In December 1984 Council advised the Provincial Secretary for Social Development of its position in this respect and its intention to seek a mechanism to link the Ontario Human Rights Code to the Building Code to ensure accessibility.

#### **STATUS:**

##### **ACCESS**

**Council continues to seek to link the Ontario Human Rights Code to the Building Code to ensure accessibility.**

#### **Transportation**

Through representation on the Traffic Conference Committee of the Ministry of Transportation & Communication, Council has continued to express dissatisfaction with the criteria established for the issuing of disabled symbol license plates.

At a meeting held in October 1984 with officials of the Ministry, Council was assured that the issue is under review. Council's position, that such licences with associated parking privileges should be linked to individuals rather than to vehicles, has been acknowledged and changes are expected to be made shortly.

The Ministry of Transportation & Communications has not yet released the results of the review of transportation programs in Ontario that it has been conducting over a considerable length of time. The review was to include an analysis of service levels, utilization, financing and methods of subsidy.

The unmet needs of disabled persons for transportation in rural Ontario and possible motability options have been discussed by Council with Ministry staff. While the Ministry continues to indicate that funding for any kind of motability scheme would have to come from the social policy field, regulatory approval of vehicle standards remains a responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation & Communications. Staff of that ministry is consulting with Council in reviewing a number of possible vehicle designs.

#### **STATUS:**

##### **TRANSPORTATION**

**Council is awaiting announcement of changes to the criteria for issuing disabled symbol license plates from the Ministry of Transportation & Communications, together with the results of the review of transportation programs by that Ministry.**

#### **Traffic Signals**

Council has been made aware of difficulties encountered by municipalities seeking subsidies for the installation of traffic signals to meet special circumstances, such as locations used by disabled persons. Criteria for the establishment of traffic signals have been established by a Committee of Municipal and Ministry traffic engineers. These criteria are largely based on technical requirements and Council requested the Provincial Secretary for Social Development to convey to his colleague, The Minister of Transportation & Communications, the recommendation that criteria be incorporated into the Regulations to permit a subsidy to be given where special circumstances warrant. Municipalities may, and indeed do, install traffic signals to meet special needs at their own expense and without subsidy, and Council commends these cities and towns. However, smaller communities cannot always afford such expenditures and it is Council's view that the issue of meeting special needs should be looked at on a province wide basis.

#### **STATUS:**

##### **TRAFFIC SIGNALS**

**Council has recommended a change in criteria to permit a subsidy where special circumstances, such as locations used by disabled persons, warrant. Discussions will be held with the Ministry of Transportation & Communications.**

#### **Support Services**

Chairperson:	Jean Moore
Members:	Roy Herbert
	Ron McInnes
	Kirby Rowe
	Ruth Selby

#### **Attendant Care**

In 1983 Council recommended to government the enactment of legislation for home support services which would include a mechanism to allow for direct payment to individuals in need of services, without a requirement for a means test, in order for them to design and control a program peculiar to their individual circumstances.

The Outreach Attendant Care program now in place, although it does not permit direct payment

to individuals, is providing service to a number of disabled individuals across the Province. Council has discussed the program delivery mechanisms at great length with representatives from the Ministry of Community & Social Services during the past year. A commentary by Council on the Attendant Care Outreach Program Draft Policy Framework was forwarded to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development in September 1984 for transmittal to the Minister of Community & Social Services. At the same time, however, Council indicated it had not changed its original position on this issue. As a result of suggestions Council made in the Commentary, some changes have been made in the delivery of the program, notably the increase in the flexibility of the hours of service in a month to 90 hours or, in special circumstances, 120 hours. The dialogue with the Ministry continues and Council appreciated the co-operation of the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Community & Social Services and his staff in this respect. Concerns remain, particularly regarding the numbers and locations of those being served, and the collection of financial information and other data related to Federal/Provincial cost sharing. Major concerns centre on availability of this program throughout the province and the funds allocated for administrative costs of service providers.

**STATUS:**

**ATTENDANT CARE**

**A program to provide Outreach Attendant Care to a number of disabled persons is now in place. Council continues to seek modifications to and extension of this program from the Ministry of Community & Social Services.**

**Property Assessment Program**

Under this program, announced in May, 1984, in order to qualify for a property tax exemption on renovations to a residence, disabled or senior citizens are required to swear an Affidavit indicating that, without the proposed alterations, improvements or additions described, the individual would require care in an institution. Council met with a senior representative of the Ministry of Revenue to discuss the criteria for exemptions and it was Council's view that improvements to the home of a disabled person ought to be exempt if they improved the lifestyle of the individual and not only if they preclude institutionalization.

A recommendation to this effect was sent to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development, to be shared with the Minister of Revenue. The request was made that the wording in the legislation and supporting documentation be changed accordingly. The Ministry is reviewing this wording, with a view to implementing Council's request.

**STATUS:**

**PROPERTY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Council has recommended a change in the criteria for eligibility for a Property Tax Exemption on residential renovations and a change in the wording of the Affidavit to be sworn by a disabled or senior citizen. The Ministry of Revenue has this issue under review.**

**The Role of the Family**

The family unit is a basic component in Ontario's society. As such, Council has long been concerned about the possible stresses on the family with a member who has a physical disability. In the Ninth Annual Report, Council recommended that their successors on Council continue to pursue the issues surrounding the role of the family in the care of disabled persons. In order to do this, Council has been working closely with the Secretariat for Disabled Persons. Under the direction of the Provincial Co-ordinator, staff in the Secretariat have prepared a bibliography of existing research studies as the basis of further work in this area.

**STATUS:**

**THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY**

**Council is reviewing the priority for further work in this area with the Secretariat for Disabled Persons.**

**Housing**

Related to both its concerns about families with disabled members and support services for persons with disabilities, Council met with a senior staff member in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing to review all the programs currently available to them. The information will be most



helpful as Council continues its work in these areas.

## **STATUS:**

### **HOUSING**

**Council continues to review and monitor all programs affecting the provision of housing and support services for families and disabled persons.**

## **Assistive Devices Program**

In August, 1984, Council indicated to the Minister of Health that the extension of the Assistive Devices Program to adults should be given immediate attention. The Minister subsequently advised that changes to the Assistive Devices Program would be announced by July of 1985. Council decided therefore to restate its position on this essential program; namely that no priority for such devices should be based on age, type of disability, cause of disability, or level of income. Council awaits with great interest the forthcoming announcement regarding the proposed changes and will examine them very carefully.

## **STATUS:**

### **ASSISTIVE DEVICES PROGRAM**

**Council has reiterated its position that the extension of this program to adults requires immediate attention. Announcement of changes are expected by the Minister of Health in Summer 1985.**

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

As part of the objective to improve the flow of information and raise the profile of Council with the public and government, Council undertook several initiatives in 1984/85.

In February, 1984, the Chairman and three Members of Council met with 22 representatives of 17 organizations in Barrie. The concerns and information shared were many and varied, but essentially fell into the following categories:—

Housing & Accessibility  
Assistive Devices Program  
Outreach Attendant Care  
Transportation  
Disabled Symbol Licence Plates  
Employment  
Education  
Gaps in Medical Services

Council appreciated the co-operation of all those attending and the staff of the Allandale Community Arena who provided such pleasant surroundings.

Council has asked the Provincial Secretary of Social Development to consider the designation of a month or week of activities across the Province to heighten awareness of disabled people, their endeavours and achievements in our society. The Provincial Secretary for Social Development responded very positively to this suggestion and the Secretariat for Disabled Persons is studying the possible options.

Council members were also very pleased to be given the opportunity to contribute to the Awards Program connected with International Youth Year. Four disabled young men and women were nominated and received their awards at special presentation dinners held early in 1985.

During 1984/85 Council has also been pleased to participate in the Ontario Youth Corps Ministry program. Designed to assist young people between the ages of 15 to 24, who have been out of school and unemployed for 12 weeks and who face special barriers to employment, including physical disabilities, this program enabled Council's staff to have the assistance of three individuals with a variety of office and research-related duties.

In order to facilitate the work of Council, a submission was made to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development in December 1984 that the following addition be made to the existing terms of reference of Council:—

(c) To consult with the Government of Ontario with respect to the development and implementation of proposed programs and policies.

Council has also requested a further amendment to the wording of the Order-in-Council to more clearly indicate that members may continue to be re-appointed so long as their total length of service on Council does not exceed six years. The Provincial Secretary for Social Development has undertaken to discuss these recommendations with his Cabinet colleagues.





Le Conseil a également demandé qu'un autre amendement soit apporté à l'énoncé du décret du

c) de jouer un rôle consultatif auprès du gouvernement de l'Ontario au niveau du développement et de l'application des politiques et programmes proposés.

conseil pour indiquer plus clairement que les membres peuvent voir leur mandat reconduit tant que la longueur totale de leur service ne dépasse pas six ans. Le Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales a accepté de discuter de ces recommandations avec ses collègues du conseil des ministres.

Etat de la question:

LE RÔLE DE LA FAMILLE

**Le Conseil examine le travail à faire en priorité dans ce domaine avec le Secrétariat des personnes handicapées.**

Logement

Dans le cadre de l'intérêt qu'il porte d'une part aux familles dont un membre est handicapé et d'autre part aux services de soutien aux personnes handicapées, le Conseil a rencontré un haut fonctionnaire du ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement pour étudier tous les programmes qui sont actuellement offerts à ces personnes. Les renseignements recueillis seront des plus utiles pour permettre au Conseil de continuer à travailler dans ce secteur.

Etat de la question:

LOGEMENT

**Le Conseil continue à examiner tous les programmes touchant la prestation de services de logement et de soutien aux familles et aux personnes handicapées.**

Appareils et prothèses

En août 1984, le Conseil a demandé au ministre de la Santé qu'il accorde une attention immédiate à l'extension du programme d'appareils et de prothèses aux adultes. Le ministre a répondu que des changements à ce programme seraient annoncés aux environs du mois de juillet 1985. Le Conseil a donc décidé de réaffirmer sa position sur ce programme essentiel, à savoir que l'octroi des appareils et prothèses doit se faire indépendamment de toute priorité et ne tenir compte ni de l'âge, ni du type de handicap, ni de la cause du handicap, ni du niveau de revenu. Le Conseil attend avec beaucoup d'intérêt l'annonce promise et examinera les changements proposés avec beaucoup d'attention.

Etat de la question:

APPAREILS ET PROTHÈSES

**Le Conseil a réitéré sa position et demande que l'extension de ce programme fasse l'objet d'une étude immédiate. On attend les changements que doit annoncer le ministre de la Santé au cours de l'été 1985.**

Autres activités

Dans le cadre de son projet d'amélioration de

Etat de la question:

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Autres activités

Dans le cadre de son projet d'amélioration de

suivantes:

- Logement et accessibilité
- Appareils et prothèses
- Services à domicile
- Transports
- Plaques d'immatriculation indiquant un handicap
- Emploi
- Education
- Carences dans les services médicaux

Le Conseil remercie tous ceux qui ont assisté à cette réunion de leur collaboration ainsi que le personnel de l'Allandale Community Arena qui a fourni un agréable cadre de rencontre.

Le Conseil a demandé au Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales d'envisager de lancer un mois ou une semaine d'activités dans toute la province pour sensibiliser le public aux personnes handicapées, à leurs efforts et à leurs réussites dans notre société. Le Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales s'est dit très intéressé par cette suggestion et le Secrétariat des personnes handicapées étudie les options possibles.

Les membres du Conseil ont également été très heureux de contribuer au programme de prix organisé à l'occasion de l'Année internationale de la jeunesse. Quatre jeunes hommes et femmes handicapés ont été choisis et ont reçu leurs prix lors de dîners spéciaux qui ont eu lieu au début de 1985.

Au cours de 1984-1985, le Conseil a également eu le plaisir de participer au programme des Brigades Jeunesse de l'Ontario. Destiné à aider les jeunes de 15 à 24 ans qui ont quitté l'école et sont en chômage depuis 12 semaines, et qui ont des difficultés à trouver un emploi à cause de problèmes particuliers comme les handicaps physiques, ce programme a permis au personnel du Conseil de se faire aider par trois personnes qui ont exécuté un certain nombre de tâches d'administration et de recherche.

Pour faciliter le travail du Conseil, une communication a été présentée au Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales, en décembre 1984, demandant que l'élément suivant soit ajouté au mandat actuel du Conseil:



Soins à domicile

En 1983, le Conseil a recommandé au gouvernement d'adopter une loi relativement aux services de soutien à domicile qui prévoirait un mécanisme permettant le paiement direct aux individus qui requièrent ces services, sans évaluation obligatoire des ressources, pour qu'ils puissent élaborer et contrôler un programme correspondant à leur cas particulier.

Le programme de soins à domicile actuellement en place, s'il ne permet pas le paiement direct aux individus, dispense des services à un certain nombre de personnes handicapées dans toute la province. Le Conseil a longuement discuté des mécanismes de prestation du programme, au cours de l'année passée, avec des représentants du ministère des Services sociaux et

communautaires. Un commentaire du Conseil sur l'ébauche d'une politique sur le sujet a été communiqué au Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales en septembre 1984 pour qu'il le transmette au ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires. En même temps, cependant, le Conseil a indiqué qu'il n'avait pas modifié sa position première sur la question. Suite aux suggestions faites par le Conseil dans ce commentaire, certaines modifications ont été apportées au programme, notamment un accroissement de la flexibilité des heures de service par mois qui sont passées à 90 heures ou, dans certaines circonstances, à 120 heures. Le dialogue se poursuit avec le ministère et le Conseil remercie le sous-ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires et son personnel de leur collaboration à cet égard. Le Conseil reste

cependant préoccupé par certaines questions, en particulier le nombre et la situation géographique des personnes desservies ainsi que la collecte des renseignements financiers et autres requis par les programmes de partage des frais entre les gouvernements fédéral et provincial. Les principaux sujets de préoccupation restent l'extension de ce programme à toute la province d'une part et l'octroi de fonds pour couvrir les frais administratifs des pourvoyeurs de services d'autre part.

Etat de la question:

**SOINS À DOMICILE**  
**Un programme de soins à domicile**  
**dessert maintenant un certain**  
**nombre de personnes**  
**handicapées. Le Conseil poursuit**  
**ses efforts auprès du ministère des**  
**Services sociaux et**  
**communautaires pour que ce**  
**programme soit à la fois modifié**  
**et élargi.**

Le rôle de la famille

L'unité familiale est un élément fondamental de la société de l'Ontario. C'est pourquoi le Conseil s'inquiète depuis longtemps de la tension que peut causer la présence dans une famille d'un handicapé physique. Dans le neuvième rapport annuel, les membres du Conseil ont recommandé que leurs successeurs poursuivent l'étude du rôle de la famille dans la prestation des soins aux personnes handicapées. Pour ce faire, le Conseil a travaillé en collaboration étroite avec le Secrétaire des personnes handicapées. Sous la direction du Coordonnateur provincial, le personnel du Secréariat a préparé une bibliographie des études existantes sur la question qui doit servir de base à la poursuite du travail dans ce domaine.

PROGRAMME D'ÉVALUATION FONCIÈRE

Etat de la question:

Aux termes de ce programme annoncé en mai 1984, pour pouvoir bénéficier d'une exonération des impôts fonciers sur les rénovations apportées à une habitation, les personnes âgées et handicapées doivent déclarer sous serment que, sans les changements, améliorations ou ajouts proposés, elles devraient entrer dans un établissement de soins. Le Conseil a rencontré un haut fonctionnaire du ministère du Revenu pour discuter des critères d'exonération et présenter son point de vue, à savoir que les améliorations apportées au foyer d'une personne handicapée devraient être exonérées si elles améliorent le style de vie de ladite personne et pas seulement si elles l'empêchent d'entrer dans un établissement de soins. Une recommandation à cet effet a été envoyée au Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales pour qu'il la transmette au ministre du Revenu. Elle demandait que la formulation de la loi et les documents connexes soient modifiés en conséquence. Le ministère procède actuellement à une étude des textes dans le but d'accéder à la requête du Conseil.

**Le Conseil a recommandé que des**  
**changements soient apportés aux**  
**critères d'admissibilité à**  
**l'exonération de l'impôt foncier**  
**sur les rénovations domiciliaires**  
**et que l'énoncé de la déclaration**  
**sous serment que doit faire une**  
**personne âgée ou handicapée soit**  
**modifié en conséquence. Le**  
**ministère du Revenu étudie**  
**actuellement cette question.**

soient construits de manière à offrir un traitement égal, en matière d'accès notamment, aux personnes handicapées qui doivent jouir des mêmes avantages que les autres utilisateurs des lieux conformément à l'article 1 du Code des droits de la personne de l'Ontario. En décembre 1984, le Conseil a fait connaître au Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales sa position à cet égard et son intention de chercher un mécanisme qui permette de lier le Code des droits de la personne de l'Ontario au Code du bâtiment pour assurer l'accessibilité.

**Etat de la question:**

**ACCÈS**  
**Le Conseil cherche toujours à lier le Code des droits de la personne de l'Ontario et le Code du bâtiment de l'Ontario pour assurer l'accessibilité.**

**Transports**

Le Conseil, qui est représenté au comité sur la circulation du ministère des Transports et des Communications, continue à se déclarer insatisfait des critères fixés pour la délivrance des plaques d'immatriculation indiquant un handicap. Lors d'une réunion, en octobre 1984, avec des responsables du ministère, ces derniers ont assuré au Conseil que la question était à l'étude. On a reconnu le bien-fondé de la position du Conseil qui soutient que ces plaques, et les privilèges de stationnement qui les accompagnent, devraient être associées aux individus plutôt qu'aux véhicules, et des changements dans ce sens devraient être apportés sans tarder.

Le ministère des Transports et des Communications n'a pas encore publié les résultats de l'étude des programmes de transport en Ontario qu'il a entrepris il y a déjà un certain temps. Cette étude devait comprendre une analyse des taux de service, de l'utilisation, du financement et des modes de subvention. À cet égard, le Conseil a discuté avec le personnel du ministère des besoins non satisfaits en matière de transport des personnes handicapées des régions rurales de l'Ontario et des diverses solutions possibles. Bien que le ministère continue à soutenir que le financement de programmes dans ce domaine devrait être assuré par le secteur des affaires sociales, l'approbation officielle des normes qui régissent les véhicules demeure la responsabilité du ministère des Transports et des Communications. Le personnel du ministère procède, en collaboration avec le Conseil, à l'examen de divers plans de véhicules possibles.

**Etat de la question:**

**TRANSPORTS**  
**Le Conseil attend que le ministère des Transports et des Communications annonce une modification des critères utilisés pour délivrer des plaques d'immatriculation indiquant un handicap et qu'il publie les résultats de l'étude des programmes de transport.**

**Panneaux de signalisation**

Le Conseil a été informé des difficultés auxquelles se heurtent les municipalités qui cherchent à se faire accorder des subventions pour installer des panneaux de signalisation dans des cas spéciaux, par exemple dans les endroits fréquentés par des personnes handicapées. Un comité d'ingénieurs de la circulation des municipalités et du ministère a été chargé de l'établissement de critères touchant les panneaux de signalisation. Ces critères sont essentiellement fondés sur des exigences techniques et le Conseil a demandé au Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales de transmettre à son collègue, le ministre des Transports et des Communications, la recommandation que des critères soient incorporés aux Réglements pour permettre l'octroi d'une subvention lorsque les circonstances le justifient. Les municipalités peuvent installer des panneaux de signalisation en réponse aux besoins spéciaux à leurs propres frais et sans subvention et le Conseil est reconnaissant à celles qui le font. Cependant, les collectivités plus petites ne peuvent pas toujours faire de telles dépenses et le Conseil estime que la question des besoins spéciaux devrait être étudiée à l'échelle de la province.

**Etat de la question:**

**PANNEAUX DE SIGNALISATION**  
**Le Conseil a recommandé que des modifications soient apportées aux critères pour permettre l'octroi d'une subvention dans des cas spéciaux, par exemple dans les endroits fréquentés par les personnes handicapées. Des discussions auront lieu avec le ministère des Transports et des Communications.**

**Services de soutien**

Présidente:

Jean Moore  
Roy Herbert  
Ron McInnes  
Kirby Rowe  
Ruth Selby



## Equality in Employment: A Royal Commission Report

(L'égallité devant l'emploi: rapport de la

commission royale d'enquête)

préparé par la Juge Rosalie Abella

### Linking for Employment:

préparé par Jean Pigott

Le Conseil a entrepris une étude approfondie de ces deux importants rapports. Le Conseil estime que le gouvernement devrait adopter des mesures législatives qui rendent obligatoire l'égallité devant l'emploi mais, comme le recommande le Rapport Abella, sans établir de quota. Le Conseil reste cependant préoccupé par la méthode employée pour recueillir les données statistiques nécessaires et par les moyens utilisés pour faire appliquer la loi. Le Conseil souscrit aux conclusions générales du Rapport Pigott et reconnaît la valeur du conseil des ressources communautaires proposé mais estime que le rapport ne va pas assez loin. En janvier 1984, le Conseil a recommandé au Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales que le gouvernement de l'Ontario constitue un groupe de travail provincial qu'il chargerait d'étudier ensemble les rapports Pigott et Abella dans le but d'envisager l'adoption d'une loi provinciale sur l'égallité devant l'emploi.

### Etat de la question:

#### ÉGALITÉ DEVANT L'EMPLOI

##### Le Conseil a recommandé la

##### création d'un groupe de travail

##### provincial qui étudie la possibilité

##### d'adoption d'une loi sur l'égallité

##### devant l'emploi. Aucune réponse

n'a été reçue.

## Accès et transports

Présidente: Mary Louise Dickson

Membres: Réverend K. Gallinger

Nancy Hansen

Alex Kehoe

Leonard Stortini

Joe West

## Programme de prix à l'intention des architectes

Le Conseil a accueilli avec plaisir l'initiative du gouvernement de l'Ontario qui a annoncé, en février 1985, la création du prix du premier ministre pour l'accessibilité — 1985. Avec le soutien et l'assistance de l'Association des architectes de l'Ontario et The Barrier-Free Design Centre de Toronto, le Conseil avait recommandé en 1983 la création d'un programme de prix à l'intention des architectes qui concevraient des structures libres d'ou les obstacles seraient

## Accessibilité

Au cours de l'année 1984-1985, le Conseil a rencontré des hauts fonctionnaires du ministère de l'Éducation, des Collèges et Universités pour veiller à ce que soit inclus le principe de l'élimination des obstacles dans le programme des techniciens-spécialistes en architecture de toute la province. Le ministère a appuyé la proposition et la transmettra aux autorités appropriées des universités et des collèges.

Des discussions ont également eu lieu avec les membres du ministère de l'Éducation relativement à la langue et au style de présentation du matériel imprimé d'aide à l'enseignement utilisé dans les écoles de l'Ontario. Ces publications ont pour objet d'aider les enseignants qui travaillent auprès des jeunes handicapés. Le Conseil a été heureux de contribuer à la révision de ce matériel et continuera à conseiller le ministère à cet égard.

En réponse à une demande du Conseil des écoles séparées du Grand Toronto, le Conseil a été heureux de présenter une communication sur les installations à offrir aux individus handicapés. Comme il est noté dans ce document, il est important de sensibiliser le grand public à la nécessité de rendre les bâtiments de l'Ontario accessibles et, à cette fin, il faut apporter les amendements appropriés au Code du bâtiment de l'Ontario.

Le Conseil, qui s'intéresse au Code du bâtiment de l'Ontario depuis 1978, a recommandé un certain nombre de changements dont beaucoup ont été mis en oeuvre. Il continue à réclamer fermement que tous les nouveaux bâtiments et les bâtiments faisant l'objet de rénovations majeures

## STRUCTURES LIBRES

### Etat de la question:

Les prix ont pour but d'encourager les architectes de l'Ontario à éliminer le plus possible les obstacles au stade préliminaire de la conception des bâtiments; à attirer l'attention du public sur la nécessité de ce type d'édifices libres dans notre société et à l'influencer pour qu'il en réclame la construction; et à accroître le nombre des structures et environnements utilisables par les personnes handicapées.

**La recommandation faite par le Conseil en 1983 a porté fruit. Le prix du premier ministre pour l'accessibilité — 1985 a été annoncé en février 1985.**



Emploi et réadaptation

Présidente:

Karen Glen-Freeland

Fernand Dame

Margaret Munnoch

Beryl Potter

Bill 101 — Accidents du travail

Suite à la soumission de son rapport, en décembre 1983, au ministre du Travail sur le "Livres blanc", ou Rapport Weiler, le groupe de travail sur l'emploi et la réadaptation a continué à suivre de près les progrès de la loi proposée. En juin 1984, une autre rencontre a eu lieu avec les représentants du ministère et le Conseil a communiqué ses commentaires au président du comité permanent sur le développement des ressources.

L'amendement à la Loi sur les accidents du travail, ou Bill 101, est passé en dernière lecture en décembre 1984 et le groupe de travail a continué à rencontrer les hauts fonctionnaires du ministère du Travail pour suivre de près les modifications à apporter à l'organisation et à l'administration de la Commission des accidents du travail pour que la loi soit appliquée.

À compter du 1<sup>er</sup> avril 1985, les principales modifications apportées à la loi en vertu du Bill 101 peuvent se résumer comme suit:

- Un accroissement du plafond de la portion couverte du revenu préalable à l'accident qui passe de 26 800 \$ à 31 500 \$;
- une amélioration du supplément d'indemnité versé aux travailleurs partiellement handicapés aux fins de réadaptation. En outre, pour déterminer le montant alloué, il sera tenu compte, le cas échéant, de la pension d'invalidité octroyée aux travailleurs par le Régime de pensions du Canada. Les suppléments ont pour but d'amener le revenu des travailleurs handicapés qui participent à des programmes de réadaptation au niveau des pensions d'invalidité totale;
- les travailleurs accidentés plus âgés qui ne sont pas concernés par les programmes de réadaptation professionnelle peuvent bénéficier des suppléments de réadaptation de la Commission des accidents du travail jusqu'à concurrence du montant des pensions accordées aux termes de la Sécurité de la vieillesse;
- les indemnités seront basées sur 90 pour cent du revenu net du travailleur accidenté avant l'accident plutôt que sur 75 pour cent du revenu brut;
- une nouvelle formule a été mise au point pour déterminer l'admissibilité du conjoint et des autres survivants;

Etat de la question:

LE BILL 101

Le Conseil continuera à suivre l'application, par la Commission des accidents du travail, de la loi amendée sur les accidents du travail.

Assurance — invalidité universelle

En mars 1984, le Conseil a recommandé que le gouvernement de l'Ontario constitue un comité de travail chargé de créer un modèle d'assurance — invalidité universelle. En octobre 1984, sur les conseils du Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales, le Conseil a rencontré des représentants du ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires pour poursuivre la discussion. Le Conseil a été informé que des rencontres fédérales-provinciales sont en cours et que le point de vue du Conseil sera pris en considération.

Etat de la question:

ASSURANCE — INVALIDITÉ UNIVERSELLE

Des discussions fédérales-provinciales sont en cours. Le Conseil continuera à suivre les progrès accomplis par l'intermédiaire du ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires.



**Kirby Rowe, Toronto**

Directeur général de la division ontarienne de l'Association canadienne des paraplégiques à Toronto, Kirby Rowe est membre du conseil d'administration du Lynnhurst Hospital. Il a fait partie du sous-comité sur les services de mobilité du comité consultatif du programme sur les appareils et prothèses du ministère de la Santé; il est membre du comité de développement du Cheshire Homes Development Centre et conseiller auprès de Nucleus Housing Inc.

**Ruth Selby, Hamilton**

Membre du comité consultatif régional pour les handicapés, du comité de Burlington pour les handicapés et du comité d'organisation des Jeux de l'Ontario pour les handicapés, Ruth Selby s'est vu décerner The Handicapped Woman of the Year Award par la division de Hamilton du Pilot Clubs International.



**Leonard Stortini, Sault-Sainte-Marie**

En tant que président du comité sur les enfants handicapés du Rotary Club de Sault-Sainte-Marie, Leonard Stortini, homme d'affaires, s'occupe activement, depuis plusieurs années, des questions qui intéressent les personnes handicapées.



**Nancy Skinner, London** (a démissionné)

Nancy Skinner, qui a travaillé pour la parade des dix sous (March of Dimes) comme coordonnatrice des soins personnels, a participé à l'établissement du conseil d'administration des deux Cheshire Homes à London (Ontario) dont elle est devenue présidente.



**Alex Kehoe, Chatham**

Expert d'assurance, Alex Kehoe a siégé au conseil d'administration du Centre de soins aux enfants du comté de Kent dont il a été le président pendant quatre ans. Il est membre du Rotary Club de Chatham et président depuis 19 ans du comté du club en charge des enfants handicapés.



**Margaret Munnich, Woodstock**

Margaret Munnich, infirmière autorisée, a été vice-présidente de l'Association de la dystrophie musculaire de Woodstock. Elle a été présidente de la commission des parcs et loisirs de Woodstock et du conseil de planification de Woodstock. Elle est aussi actuellement membre de l'Association des services à la famille et à l'enfance.



**A. Jean Moore, Kingston**

Présidente sortante des United Handicapped Groups of Ontario et représentante de l'Ontario auprès du comité de coordination de C.O.P.O.H. — D.P.I, Jean Moore est un membre actif de C.O.P.O.H. et P.U.S.H. aux paliers national, provincial et local. En mai 1984, elle a reçu le Lifestyle Award pour son dévouement et sa contribution à la communauté des personnes handicapées.





**Roy Herbert, Barrie**

Roy Herbert, agent immobilier et agent d'assurance, est à l'origine de la création d'une équipe de baseball et de hockey baptisée la "Muskokoka Mafia" dont il est également l'entraîneur. Le produit des tournois auxquels participent ces joueurs dans toute l'Amérique du Nord est versé dans sa totalité à des organisations de bienfaisance. Roy fait partie de comités de la Lions Legion et des Amis des handicapés physiques.



**Nancy Ellen Hansen, Ottawa**

Nancy Ellen Hansen est l'auteur de plusieurs rapports sur l'accessibilité: "Access to National Library Facilities" et "Services for One Disabled at Terrasses de la Chaudière". Elle est également co-auteur de l'ouvrage intitulé "Accessibility of Post-Secondary Institutions in the Ottawa Area and Across Canada".



**Karen Glen-Freland, Hamilton**

Karen Glen-Freland est administratrice des services de santé de Hamilton-Wentworth et enseigne les soins palliatifs au Mohawk College. Fondatrice de la Lupus Foundation en Ontario, Karen Glen-Freland est membre du comité consultatif régional sur les handicapés physiques de Hamilton-Wentworth et du comité de l'éducation et de l'industrie de la chambre de commerce.



**Fernand Dame, Kapuskasing**

Fernand Dame a joué un rôle actif au niveau du syndicat, de l'église et des conseils municipaux de sa ville natale. Il est membre des Amis de la Forge, un organisme d'aide aux personnes âgées et aux handicapés, membre des Chevaliers de Colomb et membre affilié de la Légion royale canadienne.



**Mary Louise Dickson, c.r., Toronto**

Mary Louise Dickson, c.r., avocate dont les publications portent sur la planification à l'intention des handicapés et les oeuvres de bienfaisance, a été présidente de la section des testaments et fiduciaires de la division ontarienne de l'Association canadienne du barreau et est actuellement directrice de Camp Awakening Inc., un camp à l'intention des enfants handicapés.



**Le révérend K. R. Gallinger, Parry Sound**

Ken Gallinger, ministre de St. James Centennial United Church, est conseiller de l'hôpital général du district de Parry Sound et ancien président des Amis des handicapés physiques (Muskoka-Parry Sound). Il est actuellement membre du comité de construction du Parry Sound Residence and Resource Centre for the Physically Disabled et membre du comité des enfants sourdoyés au Conseil de l'éducation de Parry Sound.



**Ronald W. McInnes, Willowdale (président)**  
Président du Conseil et avocat de profession, Ron McInnes est membre du conseil d'administration et ancien président de la Clarendon Foundation (Cheshire Homes) Inc. Il a été membre du conseil d'administration de l'Association canadienne des paraplégiques et du Lyndhurst Hospital.

**Beryl Potter, Scarborough (vice-présidente)**  
Beryl Potter est présidente du club des loisirs de Scarborough depuis sa fondation en 1976, présidente du comité d'action de Scarborough et membre du conseil consultatif pour le Fonds fédéral de développement communautaire Norm Kelly. Beryl Potter est également membre du Conseil de planification sociale et du comité consultatif de Wheel-Trans.



**Joseph West, St. Catharines (vice-président)**  
Joe West, maintenant à la retraite, était directeur de la publicité et des relations publiques. Il a été membre fondateur et premier président du St. Catharines Symphony, président de campagne et ancien président du conseil du St. Catharines United Appeal, membre de la chambre de commerce et directeur de Junior Achievement.





consultation fondée sur la coopération doit cependant être réciproque si l'on veut que le gouvernement d'une part, et les Ontariens physiquement handicapés d'autre part, tirent profit de l'existence du Conseil.

La réorganisation entreprise au cours de l'année passée a également touché le personnel du Conseil. Le départ à la retraite de celui qui a été notre administrateur principal au cours des quatre dernières années et le transfert de notre adjoint à l'administration nous ont privées temporairement d'une expérience très valable mais je suis heureux de pouvoir dire que leurs successeurs se sont avérés à la fois capables et efficaces. Un autre changement s'est produit vers la fin de l'année: nous partageons maintenant avec le Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur l'âge d'or les

## Le rôle du Conseil en 1984-1985

Le Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques a été constitué le 5 février 1975 par un décret du conseil approuvé par le lieutenant-gouverneur de l'Ontario.

En 1975, le Conseil était constitué d'un président et de dix-neuf membres choisis dans les diverses collectivités de l'Ontario. En 1984-1985, seize personnes ont été nommées au Conseil, notamment un président et deux vice-présidents avec le mandat:

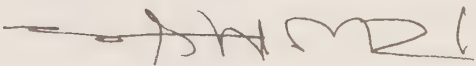
"de conseiller le gouvernement de l'Ontario par le biais du Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales sur toute question relative au bien-être des personnes handicapées physiquement et, sans limiter la généralité de ce qui précède:

a) de promouvoir et de créer des occasions qui permettent aux personnes handicapées de participer à des programmes d'entraide qui leur soient une source de satisfaction et d'avantages comme membres de la société dans son ensemble;

b) d'étudier les politiques en vigueur qui ont un impact sur les personnes atteintes de handicaps, dans les domaines notamment de l'éducation, de l'emploi, de la réadaptation, du maintien du revenu, des mesures de santé, des installations et des services gouvernementaux et autres — y compris les programmes sur le logement —, du transport, des loisirs, de la tutelle et autres services connexes."

Le rôle du Conseil est donc d'offrir au gouvernement des conseils utiles fondés sur l'expérience et les connaissances des membres qui le constituent et qui s'intéressent aux problèmes qui se posent aux personnes handicapées de notre société. Pour ce faire, le Conseil doit être au courant des besoins et des préoccupations des individus ou des groupes qui représentent ces handicapés.

Ronald W. McInnes



Le président,

West.

Pour finir, je voudrais remercier tout particulièrement mes deux éminents vice-présidents, Beryl Potter et Joe

services d'un adjoint à la recherche pour la première fois de notre histoire. Il y a un certain temps que nous avons besoin de ce type de service et je suis convaincu que ce soutien supplémentaire permettra au Conseil d'étudier les problèmes plus en profondeur et d'y faire face avec plus d'efficacité.

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Personnel administratif

Mary Tate, administratrice

Christopher Stewart, adjoint administratif

Il a été particulièrement intéressant d'assumer les fonctions de président du Conseil consultatif alors qu'il s'apprêtait à fêter ses dix ans. Au cours de ces années, le Conseil a rempli sa tâche sous la direction éminente de Edward A. Dunlop, Andrew C. Clarke et le regretté Jack Longman et c'est à eux, ainsi qu'aux membres qui ont travaillé avec eux, que nous devons nos réussites passées. Il reste cependant beaucoup à faire et le Conseil conservera sa raison d'être pendant encore bien des années.

L'année passée devait être essentiellement une année de réorganisation, d'éducation et de révision des priorités du Conseil. Depuis la création du Conseil, la sensibilisation aux obstacles physiques et psychologiques auxquels les personnes handicapées doivent faire face a fait énormément de progrès, tout comme le soutien apporté par le gouvernement et le public à l'amélioration de leurs conditions de vie. L'objectif est maintenant d'améliorer le système d'information et de communication pour permettre au Conseil de mieux jouer son rôle auprès du gouvernement dans certains domaines d'importance particulière. Il faut renforcer le profil du Conseil aussi bien auprès du public, et particulièrement des personnes handicapées, qu'auprès du gouvernement si l'on veut que les problèmes importants soient effectivement pris en considération et que des recommandations soient adressées aux secteurs appropriés du gouvernement. Le Conseil doit être mieux informé des initiatives que s'apprête à prendre le gouvernement pour pouvoir lui soumettre des suggestions constructives avant que soient mis en oeuvre les divers programmes et politiques.

C'est à cette fin que nous avons organisé une série de consultations intensives de deux jours au cours de 1984, avec un vaste éventail de représentants des divers ministères du gouvernement dont les décisions touchent les personnes handicapées de l'Ontario. Bien que ces rencontres n'aient pas connu un succès absolu à tous égards, nous y avons appris beaucoup de choses qui s'avèreront utiles à l'avenir et nous espérons qu'elles ont été pour les représentants du gouvernement l'occasion de mieux comprendre le Conseil et son mandat. Au début de 1985, le Conseil a pris une autre initiative expérimentale lorsqu'il a organisé une session de consultation communautaire à Barrie. Vingt-deux représentants de dix-sept organismes locaux ont accepté l'invitation du Conseil et sont venus discuter des problèmes locaux avec certains de ses membres. Cette session nous a apporté des points de vue nouveaux et une confirmation du bien-fondé d'un certain nombre de questions qui étaient déjà à l'étude. Ce type de rencontre pourrait remplacer les tribunes publiques plus importantes et plus officielles qui ont été organisées ces dernières années et dont il faut nécessairement limiter le nombre pour des raisons—toujours actuelles—de temps et de budget.

L'année passée, le nombre de nos membres est passé de 21 à 16 dont la moitié siégeait pour la première fois au Conseil. Bien que les membres qui nous ont quittés à la fin de l'année 1984-1985 nous aient beaucoup manqué, les nouveaux venus ont apporté au Conseil une contribution admirable, et un grand nombre de recommandations bien pensées et de commentaires pertinents sur les politiques et les programmes du gouvernement ont été présentés au Secrétaire de la province aux Affaires sociales, l'honorable Gordon Dean. Ces réalisations ont dépassé mes attentes et sont une preuve du dévouement et de l'énergie des membres.

La réduction de la taille du Conseil a dû s'accompagner d'une réorganisation des structures. Des groupes de travail ont été constitués pour s'occuper des secteurs suivants: services de soutien et logement, emploi et réadaptation, et accès et transports. Il est regrettable que les questions touchant les enfants handicapés physiques, qui ont longtemps figuré au nombre des préoccupations importantes du Conseil, n'aient pu être traitées cette année qu'en fonction de besoins ponctuels.

Les membres du Conseil étant choisis dans toutes les régions de la province, les rencontres des groupes de travail et les réunions du Conseil se tiennent plusieurs jours de suite à Toronto. Au cours de l'année passée, il y a eu 7 réunions. Entre les réunions, les membres ont étudié les informations recueillies avec compétence par le personnel du Conseil et se sont préparés chacun intensément afin de tirer le meilleur parti possible du temps limité qu'ils passaient ensemble. Des représentants des ministères ou organismes du gouvernement ont souvent été invités aux réunions des groupes de travail pour expliquer une politique ou un programme particulier ou répondre aux questions du Conseil. Des membres du secteur privé sont aussi parfois venus faire connaître leurs points de vue et leurs préoccupations ou partager leurs connaissances. Les groupes de travail sont responsables devant le conseil plénier et c'est lors de ces rencontres que les recommandations sont proposées et discutées, ce qui permet de faire appel à l'expérience et aux connaissances de tous les membres. Une fois adoptée, une recommandation est transmise par le président au Secrétaire de la province pour que des mesures soient prises ou qu'une réponse soit fournie par l'un de ses collègues au conseil des ministres. Le progrès de ces recommandations est suivi de près par le Conseil qui veille à ce qu'une réponse soit donnée et, du moins on l'espère, à ce que la mesure proposée soit adoptée.

Tous les membres du Conseil éprouvent la frustration qui va de pair avec l'appartenance à un organisme purement consultatif mais ils reconnaissent aussi, j'espère, le privilège unique que représentent pour le Conseil les rapports étroits mais indépendants qu'il entretient avec le gouvernement. Cette forme de



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## IN MEMORIAM



JACK LONGMAN

18 mai 1922 – 28 mai 1985

PRÉSIDENT

Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés

physiques

1978-1984

Jack Longman, atteint à la naissance d'osteogenes imperfecta, n'a jamais beaucoup grandi. Son envergure s'est manifestée autrement, dans la façon dont il a surmonté son handicap, dont il a mené ses affaires à Windsor et dont il s'est fait le champion des désavantagés. Il a joué un rôle clé dans la fondation de la maison ALPHA (Apartments for Living for Physically Handicapped — appartements réservés aux handicapés physiques). Il a fait ses études chez lui avec l'aide de sa famille et du programme de visites à domicile du Conseil de l'éducation de Windsor. Son principal guide, cependant, a été la vie elle-même et c'est au niveau de la connaissance de l'expérience

humaine qu'il a acquis une grande sagesse intérieure. Sous sa présidence, le Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario sur les handicapés physiques a renforcé sa position de conseiller responsable du gouvernement sur les besoins et les préoccupations des personnes handicapées de l'Ontario. Jack Longman était membre de la Westminster United Church de Windsor, du Rotary Club et du comité provincial sur les appareils et prothèses. En octobre 1981, l'université de Windsor lui a conféré un doctorat honifique en droit. Jack laisse derrière lui son épouse, née Joyce Butcher; ils étaient mariés depuis 1958.

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**Dixième rapport annuel du**  
**Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario**  
**sur les handicapés physiques**  
**pour l'année financière se**  
**terminant le 31 mars 1985**

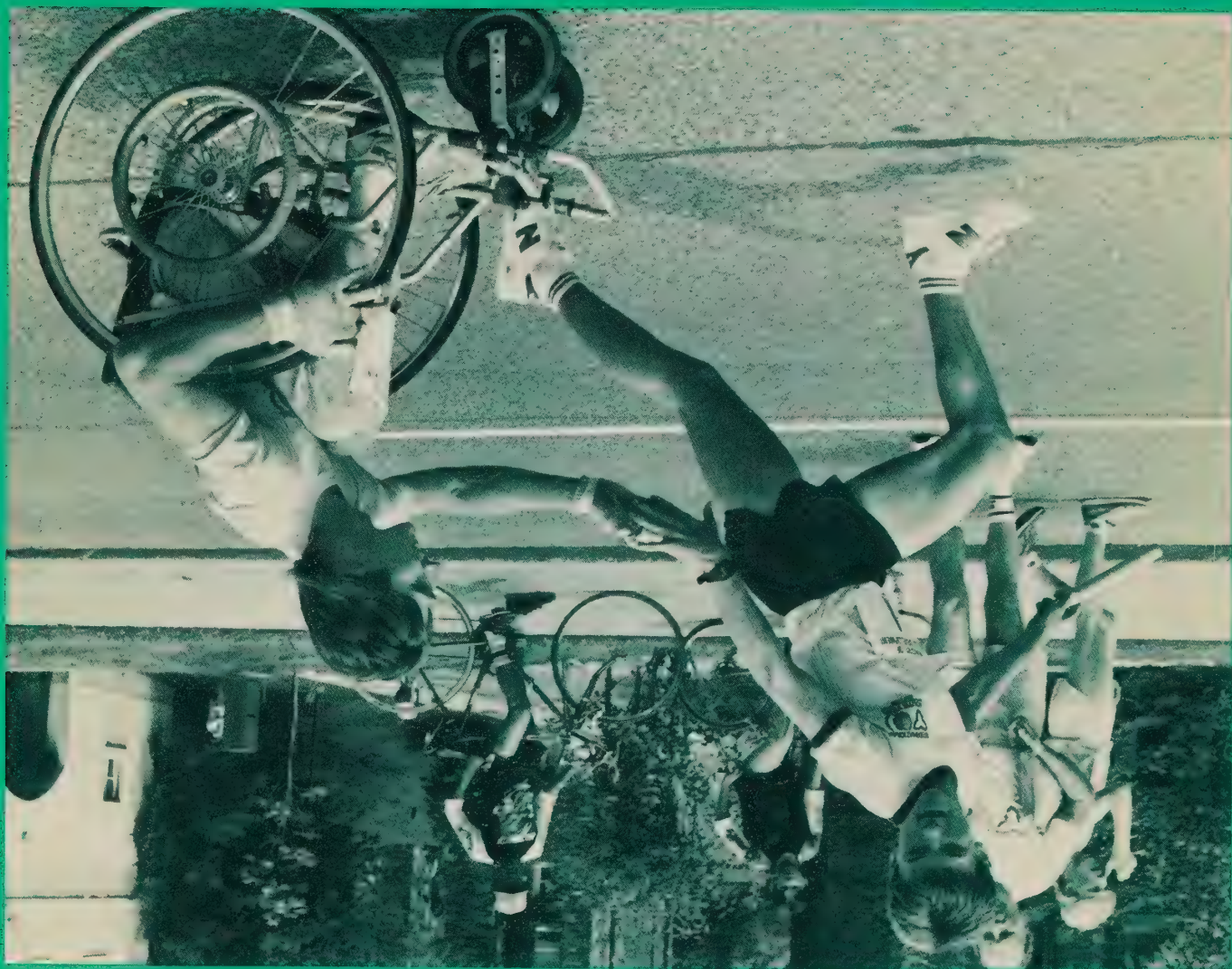
 **Le Conseil consultatif de l'Ontario**  
**sur les handicapés physiques**





# DIXIÈME RAPPORT ANNUEL

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sur les  
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